

Grand entrance: the 10,000-ton Royal Viking Queen passing under Tower Bridge yesterday before her maiden voyage later this month. Built at a cost of £50 million, she will carry 212 passengers

### Election security

## Democrats' doubts stall legislation

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

EMERGENCY legislation lifting the obligation on election candidates to declare their addresses was being held up last night because of doubts in the Liberal Democratic party over its likely effectiveness. At the same time anger emerged in the Labour leadership over the government's decision to announce the move at the weekend after a period of heightened IRA activity.

Labour had indicated its approval to the measure three weeks ago in confidential exchanges with Kenneth Baker, the home secretary. But it had suggested that the change, which involves a short bill amending the Representation of the People Act, should be introduced in a way that avoided handing a propaganda weapon to the terrorists.

"The last thing we wanted was a fanfare," a senior Labour source said yesterday. "This looks like a knee-jerk reaction and it was not what

we intended." Some Conservative MPs have similar reservations about the proposal. Mr Baker confirmed the legislation on Sunday after a newspaper report about consultations between the parties. Government sources denied responsibility for the disclosure of the talks.

While Labour will support the bill the government is waiting for the Liberal Democrats to agree before going ahead. The government had hoped to make an announcement of all-party agreement last night but Robert Maclennan, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, has asked for meetings with Mr Baker and John MacGregor, the Commons leader, to discuss the security implications.

According to Liberal Democrat sources there is considerable scepticism over whether terrorist organisations would be thwarted in their efforts to discover the addresses of politicians purely

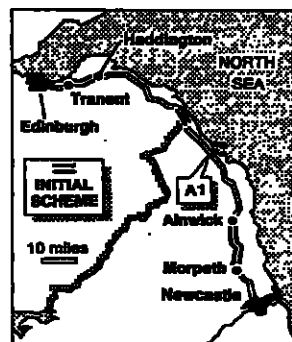
because they no longer appeared on election material. Liberal Democrat sources also said the government should think carefully before interfering with the right of voters to know if candidates lived locally.

Government sources said it was unlikely that there was no all-party agreement.

Ministers are considering whether to take a more robust line in the face of IRA bomb attacks and warnings, to minimise the dislocation of life in London and the economic damage caused by the latest bombing campaign (Robin Oakley writes).

The prime minister is to discuss with the home secretary and other ministers whether British Rail termini and the Underground should be closed after a bomb alert one station.

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Leading article, page 13



## A1 stretch to be upgraded

By Kerry Gill

A £200 million scheme to upgrade a notoriously dangerous stretch of the A1 between central Northumberland and Edinburgh to dual carriageway, was announced by Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, yesterday.

The decision to improve the main east coast route, formerly part of the Great North Road, north of Newcastle upon Tyne comes after a lengthy campaign on both sides of the border. In the past ten years 133 people have died in accidents on the A1 between Edinburgh and Morpeth, about 16 miles north of Newcastle.

## Order for Trident will be delayed

By Robin Oakley and Michael Evans

THE government is now not expected to order the fourth Trident submarine before the general election. Ministers have conceded that negotiations with the Barrow shipbuilders, VSEL, are still some way from completion.

Protracted bargaining over the cost of the final order will mean that the future of the fourth boat will remain uncertain. If Labour wins the election, it may never be ordered.

Navy sources yesterday confirmed that £400 million would be saved if the fourth Trident was cancelled, although they warned that the longer the delay in cancelling, the greater the cost to the taxpayer.

The sources also disclosed that the last Polaris ballistic missile submarine could remain in service until early next century, as part of the programme for phasing in the new generation Trident system and phasing out the old nuclear boats.

On the eve of the launch of HMS Vanguard, the first Trident submarine, tomorrow,

the sources said there was an option to retain one Polaris boat for another seven or eight years. The submarine with a possible extended lifespan is HMS Renown, which is currently undergoing a two-year refit. The £115 million refit is not due to be completed until the end of this year.

None of the three other Polaris boats is to be refitted, so HMS Renown will be the last of the older generation submarines to go on patrol. If she is kept in service for the maximum period, it will mean that Polaris boats will have acted as Britain's strategic deterrent for more than 30 years.

However, the availability of HMS Renown for up to eight more years is not being seen as a stopgap in the event of a decision not to buy a fourth Trident boat. The government remains committed to ordering a fourth and the Royal Navy departments involved in the Trident programme continue to base their whole strategy on having four submarines.

## Heseltine to set new gas target

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

THE government's target for stabilising emissions of the principal greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, at present the year 2005 — five years behind the European Community date — may be brought forward, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, told a preparatory meeting in New York for the United Nations conference on environment and development, the Earth Summit, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

Although his announcement was conditional, and specified no new target date, it represents the first time the government has envisaged a shift from the present target, which has been set in stone since it was announced in the 1990 environment white paper, to a chorus of angry criticism from environmental pressure groups, who said it was far too lax.

Chris Rose, of Greenpeace, said: "This is the first sign of sanity in the government's greenhouse policy although it still falls far short of what we are seeking."

## No let-up in house price fall

House prices fell again last month despite efforts by the government and lenders to breathe life into the market, according to a survey by the Nationwide building society (Michael Horsnell writes).

Figures showed prices down 1.2 per cent on the previous month, the third consecutive fall of more than 1 per cent. The average house now costs £55,308, about £2,300 or 4.1 per cent less than a year ago.

A survey by the Alliance and Leicester building society found that nearly one million people would buy a house this year and, despite the depressed market, eight out of ten still believed home buying was a good investment.

It said there would be about 450,000 first-time buyers and another 500,000 would move. The estimate compares with 2.1 million transactions at the height of the boom in 1988.

## Saatchi gift


Charles Saatchi, of the Saatchi and Saatchi advertising agency, has given nine contemporary paintings and sculptures worth an estimated £100,000 to the Tate Gallery. The gift includes work by Grenville Davey, Richard Deacon, Jeffrey Dennis, Lisa Milroy, John Murphy, Julian Opie, Verónica Ryan, Richard Wentworth and Victor Willing. They will go on show this autumn.

## Overtime ban

Workers in the TGWU union at the Vauxhall plant in Luton will ban overtime in an attempt to force the company to raise its pay offer. Vauxhall is offering a two year package — 5 per cent this year with an increase in line with the Retail Price Index later.

## Virus alert

A computer virus called Michelangelo is set to activate itself on Friday, birth date of the 16th century painter, possibly disrupting thousands of systems throughout the country. Scotland Yard said last night. The virus overwrites files with gibberish.



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Law studies put accused under stress

## Judge halts burglary trial after 9 months

By CRAIG SETON

ONE of Britain's longest and most unusual criminal trials was halted yesterday when a man accused of burglary was ruled by the judge to be suffering severe stress caused by conducting his own defence.

The hearing, which began nine months ago, is estimated to have cost £1 million. Judge Nicholl told the jury at Coventry crown court that the defendant, Denis Morley, aged 50, had displayed signs of considerable stress. Matters had "come to a head" on February 14 when Mr Morley threw a microphone from the dock that struck a desk between a shorthand writer and court usher before bouncing over the bench and hitting a wall behind the judge.

Judge Nicholl said that the jurors would be discharged from their duties, which began on May 20, without bringing in verdicts on three charges. Medical evidence suggested Mr Morley could not continue to conduct his own defence and there was

not enough time for defence counsel to be appointed and "get to grips" with the case.

The Crown Prosecution Service is to decide in the next two weeks whether he should be retried on charges of burglary, Manington Hall, on the Norfolk estate of Lord Walpole, burgling a property in Cumbria and a charge of handling stolen goods. Mr Morley, who was on legal aid, had pleaded not guilty and claimed that evidence had been fabricated by the police. He had exercised a common law right going back centuries to defend himself, but during the hearing was sentenced to a period of imprisonment for contempt of court.

He had been remanded in custody for three years and three months since his arrest in November 1988 but was freed on bail on Friday pending yesterday's ruling by Judge Nicholl.

The case has aroused considerable interest in legal circles, not least for Mr Morley's

long cross-examinations and his determination to subpoena witnesses and call for police documents.

The jury had not been in court since January 6, when a long period of legal submissions began and the court considered Mr Morley's medical condition.

While on remand at Birmingham's Winson Green prison, Mr Morley, originally from Nottinghamshire, turned his cell into a legal chambers containing an estimated half a ton of evidence and legal textbooks, which he often studied into the early hours. The dock of the crown court was converted to accommodate the documents.

Excusing the jurors from jury service for life, the judge said yesterday: "I trust no jury will have to undergo in future all you have had to endure. It is essential some means is devised in a trial such as this to define clearly beforehand all the evidence and documents required to be obtained, copied and reduced to manageable proportions before the trial begins."

He added that recent medical examinations showed Mr Morley was displaying clear evidence of considerable stress, worsened by sleep deprivation, and could not proceed.

Mr Morley, addressing the jury, joined the judge in thanking them for their patience and said he was sorry no verdict had been returned. He added: "I have no doubt that if we had reached the end of the case it would have been impossible legally to bring in a guilty verdict."

Before the case ended, Judge Nicholl and Mr Morley clashed one last time. The judge tried to intervene when Mr Morley said that 30 police officers and 20 police notebooks had gone missing. Mr Morley said he had sought to have the trial ended because of breach of process by the prosecution. He added: "This prosecution was on the point of collapse several weeks ago. They were looking for ways to sneak out of the case. This is not the end of this case by a long shot..."

## Guinness juror discusses case

Public comment by a jury foreman raises questions about more than the handling of complex fraud cases, Frances Gibb writes

THE public defence of juries in complex fraud cases by the foreman of the jury in the second Guinness trial yesterday will recharge the debate on whether juries should be scrapped for such trials.

The foreman, Edna Wijeratna, said in a letter to the *Financial Times* that the jurors had not found it unduly difficult to understand the evidence. Instead, their main frustration had been "the very slow rate of progress, caused chiefly by the way in which Mr Roger Seelig conducted his own defence."

Yesterday Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-General, confirmed that the government was looking at ways of "securing quicker justice", but said: "The government's mind is not made up and all suggestions will be sensibly looked at." Speaking at Commons question time, he referred to Mrs Wijeratna's letter and seemed to give his support to the present jury system.

He said: "I think recent comment has been disfigured by a good deal of misinformation." The Crown Prosecution Office, set up three years ago, had achieved a "strikingly successful rate of success in what are serious and complex frauds."

Mrs Wijeratna's comments will focus attention on whether judges should have more power to control the passage of a trial where a defendant acts for himself, and on whether the law should allow jurors to speak about their deliberations.

Sir Patrick told the Commons: "There is no means at present by which a judge can sufficiently control the length of time that is taken by a defendant, particularly one who is defending himself."

In her letter, Mrs Wijeratna disclosed that jurors in the Guinness trial, which collapsed after psychiatricists found the defendant to be suffering from strain, had

wondered whether "the consideration extended to Mr Seelig would have been forthcoming for a defendant in humbler circumstances".

Mrs Wijeratna's decision to write to the press may prompt other jurors to speak out. Under the Contempt of Court Act 1981, however, it is a contempt punishable by a fine or imprisonment to tell anyone about any statement made, opinions expressed, arguments advanced, or votes



Wijeratna: disclosed jurors' opinions

cast by members of the jury in the jury room, or for any person to ask a jury about such information, even after the trial is over.

There is growing pressure for the law to be relaxed. The present research into the crown courts by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice is questioning jurors for the first time about their treatment, their views of the trial, and whether they understood the evidence.

In the United States, jurors are free after a trial to speak out or even sell their stories. After the recent trial for rape of the boxer Mike Tyson, the jury held a press conference explaining how they had arrived at their guilty verdict, and describing how their votes had shifted during discussion.

Law Times  
L&T section, page 7

## Gang threatened to torture dealer

By RAY CLANCY

AN ART dealer was kidnapped, bundled into a car and threatened with torture by a gang who ordered him to hand over valuable Russian treasures and sell them for £385,000 house, a court was told yesterday.

John Gaze, aged 44, avoided swallowing tablets placed in his mouth by his kidnappers and refused to sign documents that had been drawn up on his company's notepaper. He escaped from a cupboard in a house where he was being held and raised the alarm, said Andrew Brerley, prosecuting at the Central Criminal Court.

Sheldon Davies, aged 28, a market porter, pleaded not guilty to charges of kidnap, false imprisonment and blackmail. The jury was told that a second man, Sachdevell de Houghton, aged 52, had admitted the charges and a third member of the gang has not yet been caught.

Mr Gaze, an expert on Rus-

sian fine art, put his house in east London up for sale last June. A man sent by the estate agents began acting suspiciously, paying more attention to the house contents than the building.

Mr Brerley said the man was de Houghton who turned up again two weeks later with two other men pretending to be making a delivery. Mr Gaze was grabbed from behind and a jacket was put over his head. He was told the tablets would put him to sleep but kept them beneath his tongue.

Mr Gaze was then taken to a house in east London, undressed and told he would be tortured if he did not cooperate. The kidnappers asked him about alarms and panic buttons at his home and his shop in Piccadilly. They demanded information about his finances and tried to persuade him to sign documents handing over his home and art treasures. The trial continues today.



Supporting role: Jill Gascoigne yesterday. Actresses fear victimisation if they speak out, she said

## Actresses stage protest over pay

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ACTRESSES sometimes earn less than a third of actors' incomes and are offered fewer roles, according to a report published yesterday by Equity, the actors' union.

Average annual earnings for men were £36,843 while women were paid £11,431, according to a survey based on 410 responses to 1,000 questionnaires sent to Equity members.

Susannah York, one of the actors who attended the press conference launching the report, said that discrimination was not confined to little known actors. In a recent production in which she received top billing, but which she would not identify for fear of reprisals against others in the cast, she was paid 30 per cent less than her male co-star and 25

per cent less than a supporting actor.

Miss York's latest television appearance was in the BBC1 serial *Trainer* in which she appears with Nigel Davenport, the president of Equity. She said: "When I complained I was told that there wasn't enough money to pay me more. This isn't even a feminist point, it's one of simple justice."

Jill Gascoigne said that actresses would not be prepared to make a test case for fear of victimisation. "They would never work again," she said, adding: "In the future, when the 'Doomsday' archive of television recordings of the late 20th century is excavated, people will believe that the world was predominantly male."

Equal Opportunities in the *Mechanical Media* is based on a survey carried out by Helen Thomas, University of London. It shows that average earnings for men in television were twice as much as those for women; that men earned more from commercials by a ratio of 2.5 to 1; and that men earn 3.5 times more than women from radio work, in which they had three times as many single engagements. In the cinema there were twice as many roles for men.

The fault lay not so much with writers as with executives, according to Alan Plater, a television scriptwriter and president of the Writers' Guild. "The population is 50 per cent women and 50 per cent men, but when you get to executive levels in television that 50-50 ratio hits a

little landmine," he said. Women's acting careers also take a less positive course than men's, the report shows. Actresses are busiest when they are under 30; between 40 and 49 men get twice as much work as women. After 50, the ratio becomes more even.

The BBC denied discrimination. "Exactly the same criteria are applied to women as to men," said a spokesman. "They get paid the same, and as for women's roles we need only point to series like *Rides, Making Out* and *House of Eliott* which have predominantly female parts."

Ian McGarry, general secretary of Equity, said the union was seeking meetings with the BBC, ITV companies, advertising agencies and film makers.

## Police fire Kiszko doctor

A doctor whose tests helped clear a man wrongly convicted of murder has had his contract as a police surgeon ended after 25 years service.

Dr Edward Tierney, who ordered the sperm tests which led to the freeing last month of Stefan Kiszko, who had served 16 years of a life sentence, said he believed he was sacked because he had demanded that police surgeons should be independent of the police and Crown Prosecution Service.

Dr Tierney called for independent police surgeons in a letter to David Waddington, the then home secretary, who had defended Mr Kiszko.

## Lawyers pull out of duty rota

Solicitors in Devon yesterday became the first to take full scale industrial action in protest at government proposals for fixed fees in magistrates' courts. They started a month-long withdrawal from the duty rota schemes in courts and police stations.

If police fail to find a solicitor by telephoning round, they will be obliged to release suspects in custody or charge them without interview. A Devon Law Society spokesman said: "We feel we have to take this stand for the sake of the future of legal aid."

## Murder hunt

Police issued posters of the missing neighbour of Adele James, who was found murdered on mud flats near her home in Pembroke Dock, Dyfed. Checks are being made at ports and airports for William O'Donnell, a Scotsman, aged 36, who disappeared on Friday, the day Mrs James's body was found on mud flats. Police said they had received a good response to appeals for information.

## Twyford threat

Ministers will take "whatever action is necessary" to ensure that work on the final section of the M3 through Twyford Down in Hampshire begins on schedule, a transport department spokesman said. The warning includes the threat of a court injunction to remove protesters from the River Itchen watermeadows site of special scientific interest below the down.

## Dolphin Freddie abandons port

By ROBIN YOUNG

FREDDIE, the bottle-nosed dolphin whose enthusiasm for human companionship transformed the Northumbrian coal and fishing port of Amble into a tourist attraction, has abandoned the seaside village which he adopted five years ago.

He went at the weekend, and although there was a report of a sighting at Tynemouth, 25 miles along the coast, on Sunday, his whereabouts are unknown. After years of consorting with humans wearing wetsuits and flippers, he may have swum into the North Sea to look for another dolphin.

Freddie's sex life was the focus of national attention last year when Alan Cooper, an animal activist, was cleared of outraging public decency by playing with Freddie's erect penis. Peter Bloom, Amble's dolphin adviser and curator of a dolphinarium in Flamingo Land, Yorkshire, had expressed concern that some swimmers who braved the chill of the ocean to swim with Freddie were arousing him sexually and possibly making him frustrated.

Amble, population 5,000, is on the estuary of the salmon-rich Coquet river, but is not the most picturesque Northumbrian coast resort. The town



Making waves: Freddie became a controversial tourist attraction will surely miss Freddie, who in five years achieved what the Northumbria Tourist Board could not manage in 20, putting Amble up with Lourdes and Bayreuth as a place of pilgrimage.

With the unexpected advent of a cosmopolitan crowd of dolphin-fanciers, guest houses, bars and souvenirs proliferated, and a restaurant in Amble was named in Freddie's honour. There is a Dolphin Rest Home.

John Hedley, the mayor of Amble,

dreads the effect which Freddie's absence may have on the local economy. "He will be sorely missed because quite a bit of industry has been set up around him," he said.

George Easton, who ran boat trips to see the dolphin, said: "There is a funny atmosphere in the harbour without Freddie. Everyone is keeping their fingers crossed that he will come back."

"He has been an asset to the town but he is more than that to the locals. He has become our friend. But he is a wild creature and under contract to no one."

Freddie was not the first companionable dolphin to adopt an area of the British coastline as a gambling ground. In the 1970s a dolphin called Donald kept holidaymakers entertained off Douglas on the Isle of Man, and later there was Percy off Cornwall, and Simo on the Welsh coast.

Most recently another lone dolphin known as Dorad has been attracting record numbers of visitors to Dingle in Ireland. Amble is torn between relief that Freddie has returned to the wild and the hope that he may return.

Cruising dolphins,  
L&T section, page 6

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## Politicians queue to board Heseltine demolition bandwagon

Michael Heseltine is not alone when it comes to having strong views on what faceless London buildings should come down, Marcus Binney has discovered

TORY politicians are expected to leap on the Heseltine bandwagon by nominating their own lists of London eyesores to be demolished.

Following an announcement by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, that he planned to demolish the hated towers in Marsham Street which house his department, David Weeks, leader of Westminster City Council, has produced his own shortlist of candidates for demolition.

The list is headed by the London Hilton in Park Lane. Mr Weeks' blameworthy Harold Macmillan for pressuring Westminster council to grant permission for a Trojan horse. "Everything followed on from that," he said.

This has brought an angry reaction from Michael Schutzeendorf, general manager of the Hilton. "It's preposterous. We have spent millions of pounds refurbishing the building. The 625 staff here are incensed that their work over 25 years can be so ridiculed. It should be listed as a landmark to London hospitality. We con-

tribute £1.6 million to Westminster in rates each year."

Politicians of other councils up and down the country can be expected to join in as there are few easier ways of catching headlines. Following the publication of a hit list in *The Times*, numerous readers have responded with suggestions. High on the list of most people are the high rise hotels around London parks and those which overshadow traditional squares.

These are followed by government departments. Mr Heseltine could find few surer guarantees of popularity than to change portfolio every six months announcing the demolition of ministries as he went, beginning with the Home Office and trade and industry department.

The attack on London's eyesores was initially led by the Prince of Wales who described the National Theatre "as a clever way of building in the middle of London without any objection," and savaged "the jostling scrum of skyscrapers competing for attention" around St Paul's. While it is easy to nominate candidates for de-



City sights: the Knightsbridge Barracks; the Hilton hotel in Park Lane, variously described as a Trojan horse or a landmark to hospitality; the Home Office building in Queen Anne's Gate; and Guy's hospital, which overlooks thousands of South Bank homes

molition, the recent disputes over Paternoster Square around St Paul's suggests that it will be far harder to reach agreement on what they should be replaced with. But though few have a

good word to say about the bland concrete buildings around the cathedral, furious opposition has developed to successive schemes to replace them. In a recent exhibition, the Royal Fine Art

Commission pointed out that it had opposed the erection of the Hilton hotel, the Knightsbridge Barracks and the Royal Lancaster around Hyde Park.

David Hope, is being urged to draw up a strategy for the historic churches in the City of London (Ruth Gledhill writes). Heritage groups believe that he should put together a

team of experts to investigate problems which also affect churches in other historic cities such as York, Norwich, Bath and Bristol. The City's 39 Anglican church buildings, many of

which receive large incomes through charitable endowments, serve a resident population of less than 5,000. The total is less than the number of people served by a single parish in most other areas of the church. But more than 300,000 people travel to London to work in the square mile every day.

All 39 churches in the square mile are Grade I listed. Many hold day-time concerts and other events for City workers. Most are closed in the evening and most hold no Sunday services. Some church leaders are concerned that the City churches are so much more wealthy than outlying churches in the London suburbs, many of which have problems meeting their diocesan quotas.

Churchmen want to develop the City as a better basis for mission in the Decade of Evangelism while preserving the buildings of historic and archaeological interest.

The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, said: "We have to remember the wider church. There is always a great danger, because of their architectural importance and great history, that the City churches can become introverted and self-preoccupied. There is a need for an objective critique of how they are succeeding in their mission."

## Heart patients wait as budget runs out one month early

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST 40 heart patients waiting for investigation at Guy's and Lewisham hospitals in south London cannot be treated until after April 1 because this year's budget for cardiology has already been spent.

Dr Graham Jackson, consultant cardiologist at the hospitals, said he was allocated funding to treat 47 cases from the local area at the beginning of the financial year last April, which he completed by September. New cases were having to wait for the beginning of the next financial year.

But the South East Thames Regional Health Authority said that he had been working too fast and that if he was allowed to continue he would

"mop up all the money" for other specialties.

Last night, Dr Jackson was summoned to see Peter Griffiths, Guy's chief executive, after he was reported as saying that four of his patients had died "for lack of money".

He confirmed yesterday that the deaths occurred because of delays caused by lack of funding but refused to give details to protect the patients' identities. Since September he had received a small amount of extra funding to treat a few extra local patients but this was not enough. He was seeing "one or two cases a week" from outlying districts who were paid for separately.

"You put patients on a list to come in but by the time their turn comes the contract has run out and the trust administrator says there are no funds till the next financial year. You can't practice medicine in this way. It isn't fair on the patient and it isn't fair on us."

Dr Jackson said: "If money followed the patient I would be a very happy man. But it doesn't. If there isn't any money anyway, how is it going to follow anyone?"

A spokeswoman for South East Thames Regional Health Authority said a judgment had to be made where available funds were to be spent. "It can't be right for one specialty to mop up all the money when there are other demands from other specialties. You can put extra money into cardiology but what about hip replacements, or neo-natal care? There obviously isn't an infinite pot. You

have to strike a balance."

South East Thames region allocated £83 million to regional specialties this year. The spokeswoman said contracts were set on the basis of need and then "balanced" against the money available. This was different from the old pre-reform system in which hospitals worked away until the money ran out and things stopped, she said.

"The extent to which money follows the patient is limited by the budgets for each specialty. But setting contracts does mean that each specialty gets a bit of the cake in a planned way, according to the contract, and not just according to who walks in through the door. Under the old system one specialty could gobble up large amounts of money at the expense of another. Contracts mean a fairer sharing out, especially for specialties like the elderly and the mentally ill."

Emergency cases would always be treated immediately with money from the health authority's "risk fund", she said, and routine cases should be monitored to check whether their condition had worsened. Dr Jackson said an emergency was defined as a patient "liable to die within 24 hours".

Too little money had been allocated to cardiac work, he said. Health authorities were funded to provide 180 coronary bypass operations per million population against an average figure for Europe of 450 per million population.

Guy's cuisine, page 16

## Schools lottery confronts dyslexics

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

DYSLEXICS face a national "lottery" when seeking educational help for learning, literacy and numeracy difficulties, according to a survey published yesterday to launch national dyslexia week. The Dyslexia Institute, which teaches 3,000 students, said that local authority policy varied dramatically and was often insensitive.

Sixteen education authorities were judged to have a bad approach to the teaching of dyslexics, lacked a coherent strategy and trained staff, and sent an unusually high proportion of students to private schools. Wales and Scotland were found to be generally poor. Bromley, Solihull and Wigan were singled out for their flexible and well-organised programmes.

Harry Chasty, the institute's director, said that some high spending authorities, such as Richmond, southwest London, made poor provision for dyslexics, while certain low spending authorities, including Hampshire, Dorset and Kent, performed well. "While funding is always important it is not the determining factor which many authorities like to claim," he said. Policy and use of resources were more important.

Michael Fallon, the schools minister, said that he accepted that provision for dyslexics was uneven but that parents were increasingly aware of their rights of appeal against local authority decisions.

Parents, L&T section, page 4

## Lowry more likely in thieves' den than collector's lair

WHILE Glasgow's Kelvin Grove municipal art gallery was yesterday wondering whether its stolen £150,000 L. S. Lowry might be returned by a penitent thief, the art world was less optimistic.

The painting was taken on Saturday night during a £35-a-head charity ball, attended by 300 people, to raise money for the museum complex. Police believe that the thieves posed as guests before escaping with Lowry's scene of street celebrations on VE Day 1945. Because the picture is well known, it has been suggested that it would prove impossible to sell openly and may have been stolen to order.

Art thefts are worth more than £250 million a year and few paintings re-emerge quickly. An international guide to stolen art and antiquities published last month ran to 1,200 pages.

Police and art experts believe the idea of secretive collectors using vast wealth to hoard great works for private view is unlikely. Philip Saunders, of *Trace* magazine, which specialises in tracking

Art experts and detectives doubt the theory that works are stolen to order, reports Stewart Tandler

down stolen works, said: "In 20 years of dealing and investigating art theft I have never come across them. They must exist, but..."

Paintings such as the Lowry could be stored for six months and then sold privately. By the time the buyers find they are stolen the sellers are long gone. "One of the biggest problems is no one knows what has gone," Mr Saunders said. "The Lowry will appear in most major newspapers in this country but probably nowhere else. What happens if it is offered to an American gallery? They will probably buy it."

The laws on possession in Japan and Switzerland also present problems. If the owner of a painting can show that he has owned it for a number of years — two years in Japan



Seat of power: David Welch is to be the first chief executive of the Royal Parks of London. While he was director of leisure services in Aberdeen the city won many floral awards

## Share sale aids medical studies

A multi-million pound sell-off will bolster a charity research programme that other sponsors spurn, Nigel Hawkes says

MEDICAL research in Britain has been given the biggest shot in the arm for many years.

The decision of the Wellcome Trust to sell part of its holding in Wellcome plc is likely to provide huge new funds for medical research. The trust will soon outstrip the Medical Research Council as the largest single supporter of medical research in Britain.

The trust owns a 73.6 per cent stake in Wellcome, the world's largest pharmaceutical company, worth around £7 billion. Subject to board approval, necessary in order to modify the charitable scheme under which the trust operates, it intends to reduce its holding below 50 per cent, but no lower than 25 per cent. This means that, at present prices, the trust could realise a capital sum of up to £4.8 billion, depending on market prices and the number of shares it ultimately decides to sell.

Reinvested, the capital is likely to make a larger return than it does at present. For every £1 billion reinvested, the merchant bankers expect an additional annual income for the trust of £35 million. Potentially, the trust's income could rise from its present £100 million a year to more than £250 million. The MRC spent a little over £200 million in 1990-1.

"This is good news for British science," Bridget Ogilvie, director of the Wellcome Trust, said yesterday. "Most of the new money will be spent in supporting researchers in universities, where the trust is already the biggest non-government source of funds."

More than 2,000 people engaged in research already get their personal financial support from the trust, including 198 fellows and senior fellows and 345 research assistants and technicians.

The success of Wellcome plc in the Eighties has enabled the trust to increase its contributions to research more rapidly than any other organisation. They have risen from under £10 million in 1980 to £100 million this year. Two thirds of the spending is distributed in response to grant applications from researchers, and a third to areas of research that the trust believes are in danger of being neglected.

Dr Ogilvie says that mental health, diabetes, tropical diseases, veterinary research and gene therapy are areas of study likely to gain from the increased funding.

The trust takes a special interest in areas of science that find it difficult to attract funding. It has recently set aside £800,000 a year for three years for systematic biology and taxonomy — the identification and naming of plants and animals, including organisms that cause disease — an unglamorous, but vital field.

However much the trust has to spend, it is unlikely to be enough, Dr Ogilvie says. "Our funds have stretched up, but the proportion of applications we support has fallen," she said. "Costs of research are increasing so fast. But the opportunities are so great, the extra money could not possibly have come at a better time."

Share sale, page 17 City comment, page 21

## Teacher smoked pot with pupils

A public school teacher clubbed together with pupils to buy cannabis, a court was told. The drug was smoked at parties in Richard Trengrove's study at Rossall school in Fleetwood, Lancashire.

The history teacher, aged 24, of Southport, was yesterday jailed for nine months at Preston crown court after he admitted allowing his room to be used for drug taking and using the drug himself. Charges of supplying "pot" to pupils were allowed to lie on the file.

David Sumner, for the prosecution, said that Trengrove, a former pupil of the school, allowed boys and girls to buy and use cannabis, and supplied drink and cigarettes in his study.

Paul Reid, for the defence, said that Trengrove felt isolated among older staff. "It was not Trengrove who brought cannabis to the pupils. It was already there," he said. Judge Jolly told Trengrove he had abused his trust as a teacher.

## Danger driver's sentence cut

The Court of Appeal yesterday slashed a six-year jail term imposed on a man for causing damage with intent to endanger life by driving head-on into a car containing an off-duty policeman, his wife and four children. A life driving ban on Philip King, aged 28, a building worker, of Swinton, Greater Manchester, was cut to five years.

King was convicted at Wood Green crown court after entering a one-way road in north London the wrong way and when PC Andrew Beasley's car approached, accelerating into it at 30 mph.

## Inmates cleared

A jury was directed to return not guilty verdicts on five prisoners accused of murdering another inmate during the Strangeways prison riot when the prosecution offered no evidence against them. Paul Taylor, Alan Lord, Andrew Nelson, Martin McLatchie and Tiny Doran were cleared at Manchester crown court of the alleged murder of Derek White in April 1990.

## Boats concern

Two boats are operating on the Thames with inadequate visibility from the bridge, which contributed to the Marchioness disaster more than two years ago. Patrick Brown, the transport department's permanent secretary, told the Commons public accounts committee that talks with the owners about modifications were continuing. The department had stressed the need for a proper look-out.

## Jury discharged

The trial of Roger Amos, aged 44, a businessman accused of kidnapping and attempting to murder his wife's lover was abandoned yesterday. Mr Justice Scott Baker discharged the jury at Newport crown court after 11 days, telling them that new material had been produced at a late stage and time was needed to consider it. Amos was remanded in custody to await the new trial.

## GPs to pay £30,000 damages

TWO GPs are to pay £30,000 damages to the widow and three daughters of a woman who died because they failed to treat her promptly.

Approving the agreed settlement in the High Court yesterday, Mr Justice Cresswell said that the death of Theresa Fisher, aged 30, "could have been avoided if Dr Simon Anaman and Dr B. B. Patel, of Netherfield, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, had acted properly and promptly."

Mrs Fisher, a mother of three, fell ill in September 1988 after returning home from Milton Keynes Hospital, where she had undergone investigative treatment to discover if she could have more children.

The doctors, contacted by telephone, recommended painkillers. Mrs Fisher's condition worsened and by the time she had been taken back to hospital it was too late. She died from peritonitis brought on by the treatment. A medical expert said the doctors' conduct was "indefensible".

## Tax fear may halt sale of Holbein

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

LORD Cholmondeley is considering withdrawing his Holbein from a Christie's auction on April 15 after learning that he risks losing 70 per cent of any sum raised.

Lord Cholmondeley faces failure in his plan to raise money to endow in perpetuity his Norfolk estate, Houghton Hall, and he is being urged to withdraw *Lady with a Squirrel* and a *Starling*. The heritage lobby, eager to keep the Holbein in this country, says that he would end up with more money if he sold by private treaty to the nation.

If the work is auctioned, the taxman is entitled to demand 60 per cent and Christie's a 10 per cent seller's premium. Under tax arrangements available for heritage items, a private treaty sale could leave Lord Cholmondeley with 70 per cent of the sale price. If the Holbein sold for £10 million, an auction would provide only £3 million for Lord Cholmondeley, but a private sale would provide £7 million. Graham Greene, chair-

man of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said: "Sellers don't fully appreciate what tax incentives are available in private treaty sales."

Lord Cholmondeley chose an auction presuming that the taxman would seek only 40 per cent on the basis that the Holbein qualified under a heritage tax scheme. However, the scheme requires a work to remain registered in a family and be accessible to the public. The Holbein was not re-registered after the previous peer's death, and the public has not had access.

Roger Lane-Smith, the peer's solicitor, said: "We cannot be sure what the tax rate will be. The Inland Revenue might not necessarily agree with us. Proposals with the National Gallery and the National Heritage Memorial Fund are being discussed."

The *Art Newspaper's* latest issue says that an auction may not raise the £15 million that the peer needs because foreign bidders will fear failure to get an export licence.

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## Teenagers say Aids is their biggest fear

By RAY CLANCY

TEENAGERS in Britain are worried about Aids, drugs and bullying and are also concerned about smoking, dog attacks and drink driving, according to a survey published yesterday.

A consultant psychologist who studied the survey said that he was struck by the number of problems that the average teenager worries about.

"Some of the findings are disturbing. Our present generation of young people feel more vulnerable to a variety of threats than any comparable group in living memory. They are becoming old before their time," said Ronald

Davie, visiting professor of child psychology at Oxford Polytechnic, who helped to draw up the report.

Of 768 youngsters aged 11 to 16 questioned by researchers for the survey by the Co-operative Wholesale Society as part of the company's campaign to highlight community concerns, nearly all singled out Aids.

"I'm scared about Aids because you don't know who's got it and you don't get told about it at school," one teenager said.

Nearly all those questioned wanted stiffer fines and penalties for drunk drivers. Many said that friends had

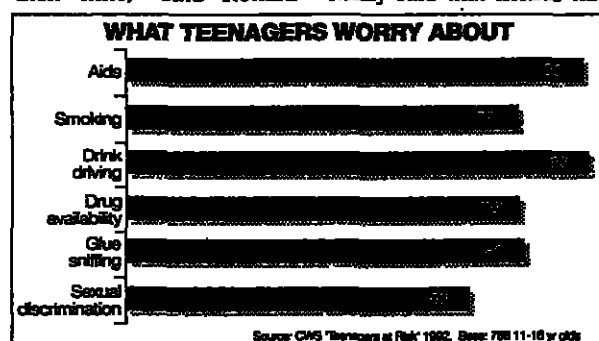
been killed or injured in road accidents.

Professor Davie said he was particularly concerned by comments about drugs which indicated that they were freely available. "My friends can get drugs any night of the week, no problem at all," was the sort of comment that caused alarm.

Many said that they were not fully aware of the dangers of sniffing glue and some appealed for the subject to be discussed more freely at school. "New thinking by the government on drugs and solvent abuse is urgently needed," Professor Davie said.

Eighty per cent felt at risk from street crime, 76 per cent feared an attack by a dangerous dog, and 72 per cent mentioned joyriding, which many thought resulted from the desire to show off or boredom.

The recession has not affected pocket money, according to a report published today by Birds Eye Walls. The average sum has risen 8 per cent since last year to £1.82 per week. Boys receive nearly 10 per cent more than girls.



Karis Lane, aged one, with her mother Karen in front of the Spastics Society poster in which she stars

## New life begins at 40 for charity

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE Spastics Society launched a 40th anniversary £2 million appeal yesterday by linking with 40 partners who also reach 40 years old this year.

Events planned for the year include a sponsored six-a-side county cricket championship with teams captained by 40-year-olds, and Jonjo O'Neill, Pat Eddery and John Francome, all 40 this year, will feature in a special horse race at Cheltenham. There will be a gala performance of the Mousetrap which opened in 1952.

The society is asking Times readers to give up something for the 40 days of Lent and donate money saved or gained from sponsorship. Whoever gives the most, and whoever offers the most original idea on what to give up, will each win a two-week holiday for two in Goa. Money and ideas should be sent to: The Spastics Society Forty at 40 office, 19-20 Conway Street, London W1P 9HL.

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industry. Now that's something everybody will be happy to raise their glass to.

## Kidnap faker must pay police £1,000

By TIM JONES

A WOMAN who faked her kidnapping to hide from her husband, the fact that she spent a night with two lovers was given a three months suspended jail sentence yesterday and ordered to pay £1,000 for wasting police time.

Police launched a hunt across two counties for two armed men after Carolyn Mansfield, aged 28, was found by a motorist in a dark lane in Basingstoke, Hampshire, beside her husband's BMW car, which had been deliberately burnt out.

Mansfield, of Burghfield Common, Berkshire, said that she had been terrorised by two men, armed with a knife, after being kidnapped and taken to a basement and forced to drink vodka. She maintained her story for two days before confessing.

She had met her lovers in a bar after her weekly callisthenics class before spending the night with them and hatching the plot to deceive her husband Neil. Reading magistrates' court was told.

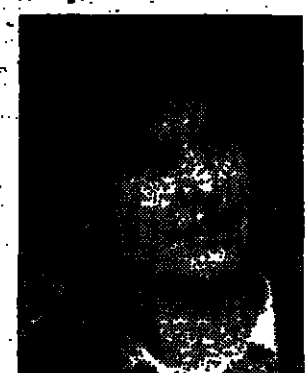
Morag Lawrie, for the prosecution, said: "Mrs Mansfield spent the night with both gentlemen — first with one and then with the second — and did not contact her family to let them know she would not be returning for the night." Police were alerted when her husband called to say she had not returned

home to him or their children, aged four and one.

Falma Tognarelli, the chairman of the bench, said: "The court views this offence very seriously and in the same category as a bomb hoax. We are mindful of the consequences of wasting limited resources."

Michael David, for the defence, said that Mansfield was having a relationship with one of the men only after difficulties in her marriage. "Her future is far from clear. Divorce proceedings are active but there is no maintenance order and her husband might be seeking custody of the children."

Later, Mr Mansfield said: "I have got custody of the kids and that's the way it's going to stay."



Mansfield: maintained story for two days

## Clans keep computer guessing

By KERRY GILL

THE Scottish Crofters Union is appealing to members to give more than just their surnames as identification when renewing their annual subscriptions. With so many crofters either MacLeods, MacDonalds, MacKenzies, MacLeans or Campbells, the union's new computerised register is baffled when it receives a cheque with just a surname and an initial.

This problem will be familiar to anyone trying to contact a MacLeod, Campbell or MacDonald in the Highlands and Islands — there are simply too many people with the same name. The union's membership includes 435 MacLeods and 430 MacDonalds and the regional telephone book contains thousands.

Fiona Mandeville, the union's administrator, said that later in the year things would get worse because the computer, unable to identify, for example, which Donald MacLeod has paid up, would confuse the payers with non-payers among its 4,500 members.

Accurate identification in northwest Scotland has been largely by the use of nicknames. For example, the late Scottish television presenter Donnie B. MacLeod did not have a name beginning with B. This was imposed on him at school for identification purposes and stuck throughout his life.

In the north of Lewis telephone book compilers recently decided that the only way to clarify identification was to carry everyone's nickname.

## 100mph tow driver is banned

A man who towed a car at 100mph on the M4 was banned from driving for six months yesterday and ordered to do 200 hours community service.

Marin Barnes, aged 35, managing director of a furniture business, who admitted reckless driving, had "only the good Lord to thank that a disaster did not happen", his counsel, Edward Boydell, told magistrates at Chippingham, Wiltshire.

Juliet Stythe, for the prosecution, said that the tow rope was 12ft long but the tow cars would have needed 362ft to stop safely, with a further 100ft "thinking time".

## Fan remanded

John Pedley, aged 24, appeared before Birmingham magistrates accused of assault causing actual bodily harm to a referee during a pitch invasion at a match between Birmingham City and Stoke City. Pedley, also charged with violent disorder, was remanded on bail.

## 125 jobs cut

A £140 million management buy-out of Babycham, the drinks company, will mean the loss of 125 jobs at Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

## Aids centres

Pilot centres for Aids testing, with a 24-hour results service, are to be set up in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

## Bird haven

A hundred trees are to be planted on a roundabout near a former Bristol tobacco factory to encourage birdlife.











Political blood will be shed on the Southern electoral battleground

## Bush camp resigned to a poor showing

GEORGE Bush's campaign managers have resigned themselves to another poor showing in the most closely watched of today's seven election contests.

Patrick Buchanan, the Republican challenger, in an off-poll pitch for support, predicted that the White House machine would "collapse like a house of cards" if he could win the Georgia primary that he has made his chief Southern battleground. Although the president's Georgia supporters laughed at the suggestion that they could lose, final indications from rural areas suggested that Mr Buchanan would at least maintain the momentum that has been running against Mr Bush through New Hampshire and South Dakota.

The president's men were trying yesterday to minimise the impact that will be felt if voters in Georgia continue the trend of protest. A 40 per cent success for Mr Buchanan, which some aides fear, would show an acceleration in support for Mr Buchanan and an anti-Bush movement that could threaten re-election in November.

"We win and get the convention delegates and we lose and get the publicity," one campaigner complained, referring to the winner-takes-all rules that could

Patrick Buchanan is likely to keep the protest vote in today's primaries, Peter Stothard writes

leave Mr Buchanan at the end of the month as far from the 1992 nomination as when he began. But confident arithmetic cannot hide the disquiet. Mr Buchanan said yesterday that the Bush campaign was hollow and lacked vision or ideas. Many Bush loyalists quietly agree.

The challenger has turned not only Republicans against the president but also thousands of conservative Southern Democrats, the poor white rural workers who in the past two decades have helped to elect Presidents Nixon, Reagan and Bush to the White House.

Mr Buchanan completed a storming tour from Savannah to Atlanta yesterday on board his old Greyhound bus, Asphalt One. He told hard-pressed farmers that they were "good old boys, and sort of like me". His television advertisements, concentrating on the Bush administration's "anti-church" tax plans and subsidy of "Christ-mocking" art, have reinforced the message.

The chief concern of the Bush camp is that if Mr Buchanan turns these voters against the president today they might keep the habit until November. Georgia rules allow registered Democrats to vote in Republican primaries and "there are plenty of people angry enough with Bush to want to vote against him twice", one volunteer worker admitted.

The president has been working hard to avoid further provoking this rural white vote, restricting himself to only the mildest attacks on Mr Buchanan and relying on surrogates to flail against Mr Buchanan's opposition to the Gulf war and his "misstatements with fascism". The one direct presi-

dential attack on his opponent has been aimed at urban women and highlights a newspaper column in which Mr Buchanan once wrote that women are "less equipped psychologically" to succeed in the workplace.

Mr Bush has been emphasising his own commitment to family values. In one of his most vigorous campaign speeches in Georgia on Sunday, the president roused 12,000 supporters in Savannah with his commitment to parental choice in education and rights for voluntary prayer in schools. Marlin Fitzwater, his spokesman, said the Buchanan advertisements attacking subsidised homosexual films were counter-productive.

The Buchanan battle-bus is the one used by Mr Bush in 1988. It still has the armour plating to prove it. According to its owner, however, the White House was not interested this year, leaving to Mr Buchanan its spartan comforts and roof-mounted speakers.

Out among the peanut fields, where racist language finds ready ears, Mr Buchanan has behaved with a restraint that has surprised followers who expected grosser appeals. He has mocked the broken English of Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, but otherwise he has kept his rhetoric in line with Washington's strict rules against racial slurs.

Mr Buchanan is campaigning as a man looking beyond today's vote and August's Republican convention. His eyes are on 1996 when he wants to be able to challenge Vice-President Quayle for the national party leadership. He was not attacking Mr Quayle too much this time, Mr Buchanan said, because he "did not want to be charged with child abuse".

Other Republican contests today are in Colorado and Maryland; there are Democratic caucuses in Minnesota, Utah, Idaho and Washington state.



End of the trail: a downcast Brock Adams, Washington's Democratic senator for one term, with his daughter and wife in Seattle. He dropped his re-election bid after sexual harassment claims by eight women

## Schedule from hell clips eagle's wings

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

COUGH tablets in one pocket, throat lozenges in the other, and big enough bags under his eyes to hold the lot, presidential hopeful Bill Clinton croaked his way through a speech at a huge Democratic dinner in the Denver Convention Centre on Saturday night.

Normally Mr Clinton is what one American commentator called a "rousing deliverer of empty rhetoric". His Denver speech, barely audible, lacked any impact. The moment he finished, the Arkansas governor's motorcade sped him to the airport, where his Boeing 727 stood ready for a 1,300-mile flight to Atlanta. On with the schedule from hell.

Mr Clinton's codename among his 20-strong Secret Service guards is, appropriately, Eagle. With critical "Junior Tuesday" primaries today and "Super Tuesday" next week, this hugely ambitious but shop-soiled candidate is now almost permanently airborne as he scours America for votes.

The day before Saturday's Denver dinner, Mr Clinton left Arkansas at 6.00am, crossed two-thirds of the continent for a midday appearance in Seattle, flew the length of the West coast for a Los Angeles fundraising event that evening and, 22 hours later, at 3.00am, checked into Denver's Executive Tower Inn.

In Colorado Mr Clinton has lost his early lead to Paul Tsongas. He was supposed to spend Saturday morning

preparing for that afternoon's candidates' debate. Instead he plunged into crowds in shopping malls, excited masses being the optimum but banishes his exhaustion. During the debate Mr Tsongas called him a liar for suggesting that he (Mr Tsongas) wanted "hundreds" of new nuclear power stations.

Mr Clinton managed to leave the impression that Mr Tsongas was pro-nuclear in an anti-nuclear state. On the flight to Atlanta, Mr Clinton was in good spirits. A true pro, he laughed at how Bob Kerrey had spent the week accusing him of draft-evasion and then assured him before the debate that he meant nothing personal. But his campaign's early aura of charmed inevitability has vanished.

Washington Democrats are said to be "massively nervous" about a candidate whose strength is his personality, not his message.

Maryland Democrats, also threatening to back Mr Tsongas today, had arranged yet another debate that evening. Non-attendance would be political suicide. Throngs of chanting supporters greeted the arriving candidates, but by this stage the hopefuls were on automatic pilot: the same arguments, the same jokes.

The debate over Mr Clinton pressed relentlessly on: a junior basketball award ceremony, a rally, a restaurant visit, an exhausted entourage trailing in his wake. Hope springs eternal.

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## Security chief is mugged

Washington: The head of security at the House of Representatives in Washington was shot in the face in a mugging five blocks from the Capitol building, Jack Russ, aged 46, sergeant-at-arms for nine years, was in a stable condition in hospital after the attack on Sunday night.

Mr Russ, whose work includes leading the Capitol's police force and running the House bank, was walking his dog near Capitol Hill when he was robbed at gunpoint by two men shortly after 10pm. His assailants fired one shot, a police spokesman said. Mr Russ, of Poplarville, Mississippi, apparently jerked his head at the last moment. The bullet entered one side of his jaw and emerged from the other, officials said. There have been no arrests. (Reuter)

## Israeli probe

Jerusalem: Eight Israeli officers, including a colonel, and three soldiers were ordered to appear before a disciplinary council on charges of negligence in connection with an Arab attack that killed three soldiers last month. The council will determine if security measures were respected in the raided camp. (AFP)

## Poll surprise

Yaounde: Partial results from Cameroon's first elections in 32 years indicate that two opposition parties could win half the assembly seats from the authoritarian government of President Biya. Mr Biya had been expected to make a clean sweep at the elections, which opposition parties said were rigged. (AP)

## MPs beaten

Nairobi: At least four Kenyan opposition MPs were injured when baton-wielding riot police broke up a march in the Kenyan capital by several hundred people demanding the release of political prisoners. (Reuter)

## Guerrilla held

Manila: Philippines security forces have captured Ricardo Capili Reyes, a senior communist guerrilla leader, and dealt a fresh blow to the 23-year insurgency, the army said. He was caught in a taxi in a Manila suburb. (Reuter)

## Kenya evidence

Nairobi: George Adamson, husband of Joy Adamson, author of *Born Free*, died in 1989 after being shot three times in the back and chest and once in the arm and thigh, the court trying a Somali was told here. (AFP)

## Bodies found

Barranquilla: The bodies of ten poor people, some showing signs of experimental surgery, have been found at a Colombian university medical centre. All had been murdered. Five security guards were arrested. (AFP)

## Niger strike

Niamey: The Niger capital was halted by an indefinite general strike in protest against mutinous troops. It followed days of action including the takeover of national radio and television, by the troops. (Reuter)

## Gaddafi refusal

Rome: Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, said in a speech broadcast by Libyan television that he had no authority to order extradition of two men accused by the US and Britain in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103. (AP)

## De Klerk spells out stark choice of war or peace

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

WHITE voters in South Africa are being told they face a stark choice in the forthcoming referendum on constitutional reforms, but the options vary according to who is addressing them.

President de Klerk, opening his campaign for a clear mandate for multiracial government, told a youthful audience in Stellenbosch yesterday that the choice was between justice and realism, terrorism and war. Andries Treurnicht, the Conservative party leader, who is striving to halt the reform process, said it was between another white general election and a black dictatorship.

As the ruling National party launched an intensive advertising campaign for a "yes" vote, Mr de Klerk told the largely student audience that a "no" vote would plunge the country into turmoil. It would be a signal rejecting 26 million fellow, black South Africans, and telling them that whites wanted to return to a policy which had failed dismally over more than four decades. "There are risks involved, but if you don't take the risks we won't find the solution," he said.

Dr Treurnicht seized on a remark by Harry Schwarz, the South African ambassador to Washington, who said in a television interview that Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress, could be elected president of South Africa within two or three years. The Conservative leader said this proved that the Nationalists were deceiving the electorate by giving the impression that they would be able to maintain power under a new constitution. "The bottom line is that the choice facing whites is between a 'no' vote and the chance of another election, or an ANC dictatorship."

The fight for the hearts and minds of the white electorate has been taken to foreign fields by the business establishment, which is sponsoring an advertising campaign in support of reforms at the

Cricket World Cup venues in Australia and New Zealand. Millions of South African fans, watching their team's matches on television, are being informed by billboards that a "no" vote does not give their country a sporting chance.

While black citizens are not being consulted in the March 17 poll, it appears the overwhelming majority of them support Mr de Klerk in his battle with the white right. In a poll conducted by *The Sowetan*, the country's biggest-selling newspaper, 87 per cent of respondents said a Conservative victory would lead to increased violence, and they wanted peace.

In the latest violence yesterday, two men were killed and ten injured on a commuter train running between Soweto and Johannesburg.

## UN told to expose Burmese abuses as killings mount

BY DAVID WATTS AND JAMES BONE

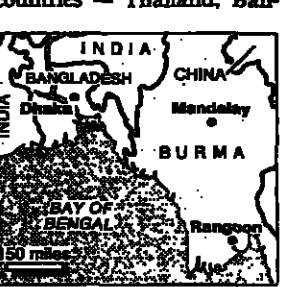
AS THE United Nations High Commission for Human Rights prepares to dispatch a special envoy to Burma, there are reports of more killings by Rangoon's troops on the Bangladesh border.

The European Community, meanwhile, is asking the United Nations to turn a spotlight on Burmese human rights abuses. Diplomats in New York say Britain and other EC members want the Human Rights Commission in Geneva to vote this week to remove Burma from the confidential procedure applied to most alleged rights violators.

This would mean that all future UN reports on human rights in Burma would be published openly, exposing the military junta there to public scrutiny. "The whole world will now see all the atrocities," said one Western diplomat. "It's the next step."

The commission is expected to approve the sending of a rapporteur by the end of this week as neighbouring countries become increasingly disturbed at the behaviour of the Burmese junta which has made incursions into three countries - Thailand, Ban-

gladesh and India - over the last six months. News agency reports say Burmese troops have killed at least 200 Muslims, or Rohingyas, in the western Burmese state of Arakan in the past week, according to refugees who arrived in Bangladesh yesterday.



At least 500 Muslims have been injured by gunfire and bayonets in the same period and more than 3,000 Muslim homes in 17 townships and villages in Arakan have been set on fire, the refugees said in Cox's Bazar. Others said 34 Muslims, including women and children, had been killed on Saturday alone. One refugee said the Burmese were pursuing a scorched earth policy.

The influx of refugees into southeastern Bangladesh has now doubled. Nearly 8,000 have arrived in Cox's Bazar, and nearby areas since Sunday, raising the total to nearly 145,000. "The junta has killed at least 100 monks and arrested about 1,000 others in the past year," U Thia, a leader of the All Burma Young Monks Union, said.

Meanwhile, the Burmese air force bombed Karen guerrilla headquarters at Manerplaw for the fifth consecutive day yesterday.

IRAQ's bitter dispute with the United Nations over its weapons' destruction programme has been given an ominous twist by President Saddam Hussein's reinstatement of his son-in-law in a critical post.

Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel al-Majid, chief architect of Iraq's clandestine nuclear, chemical and long-range missile programmes, has been made chief of the arms and oil industries, according to the Middle East Economic Survey, a respected oil newsletter based in Nicosia.

"The United Nations will take it as a very negative sign. It shows Saddam is doing his best to resist their efforts to disarm him," an Arab diplomat said. "Al-Majid has the loyalty of the scientists at home, and outside Iraq he has a worldwide network of shady arms contacts."

General al-Majid, who is married to Saddam's eldest daughter, begged, borrowed or stole equipment and technology to develop arsenals of weapons of mass destruction whose true magnitude was only uncovered by UN inspectors after the Gulf war. He was in charge of procurement for Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme and of the modification of Soviet-made Scud missiles so that their range could be extended to enable them to hit targets in Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Saddam unexpectedly sacked his son-in-law as defence minister last autumn, replacing him with Ali Hassan al-Majid, a bitter family rival. Until then General al-Majid, not yet 40, had been regarded as a rising star and the Iraqi leader's most likely successor.

His eclipse did not last long. Last month he was appointed a presidential adviser and there are reports from Iraq that he may soon be made prime minister.

## Saddam son-in-law wins back arms job

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

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## Teenagers learn to kill for a leather jacket

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

A few days after a teenager killed two fellow pupils in the corridor of a New York high school, Mayor David Dinkins has disclosed plans to recruit hundreds of security guards to make body searches at the doors of 40 schools. However, the measure has done little to curb a wave of fear in the city and across America over the rule of the gun in the classroom.

Mr Dinkins announced his \$28 million (£16 million) package targeting the most violent schools amid a realisation that many schools are turning into killing fields where pupils learn "revolver" before the more traditional R's.

The mayor, deprived of more funds by the city's depression and of any political consensus on how to tackle the violence, was reduced to exhorting children to eschew the behaviour that has made guns the main cause

of death among black teenagers in America. "We did not let so many members of one generation die for freedom only to watch a new generation die for a pair of sneakers or a gold chain or a



leather jacket," Mr Dinkins said from a church pulpit on Sunday night.

Thanks to the deaths of Ian Moore and Tyrone Sinker, shot dead over a grudge between lessons at the Thomas Jefferson High

School, the country is taking stock of the horrifying extent to which the free-fire mentality of the inner city has invaded the classroom.

In words echoed by her colleagues from Los Angeles to New York, Carol Beck, the embattled Jefferson head teacher, lamented that pupils were now "children of war". She said: "They worry that in the blink of an eye, they could be killed - this is a reality - and they think they have to protect themselves." Ms Beck's school, a highly regarded institution once attended by Danny Kaye and the present American ambassador to Mali, is one among many where "fire drill" means practice in falling to the floor at the sound of shots.

Since last September, 16 pupils, five teachers and one policeman have been shot in New York schools. Six pupils, one teacher and

the policeman died. In a spate of reports in recent days, pupils in the city's state schools have been pouring out their fears and confirming that packing a sidarm has become routine for self-esteem and protection. Boys under ten have been busy showing reporters their 22 pistols, the entry-level firearm that is soon replaced by heavier firepower, leading to the automatics and Uzis toed by the 17-year-olds.

In Illinois, a third of city schoolboys say they have taken a gun to school. In California schools there were 2,000 armed assaults last year. A third of American inner-city secondary schools use metal detectors and almost half of all inner-city teenagers have seen an acquaintance murdered, *Newsweek* magazine reported yesterday.

Fuelling the alarm, the *New York Post* found pupils

in the Bronx yesterday buying pocket-size grenades at \$75 each. In another development, the media have been reporting a fashion for gun-toting among teenage girls, and noting that the gunplay is spreading fast in white, middle-class schools, even in the suburbs and countryside.

In Crosby, Texas, for example, a girl aged 15 shot dead the captain of the football team in the cafeteria because she thought he heard him call her a bitch.

Most chilling in all the gun talk is the indifference to human life implicit in the culture. A dirty look is commonly said to be ground for murder. Asked if all his friends had guns, a Manhattan boy said: "They do. Because a lot of people just want to be respected and to be recognised. It is just how you choose to be recognised in the world."

## BE A FRIEND

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## Ethnic feuding spawns open conflict as former Soviet periphery crumbles

## Trail of bodies mark Karabakh's grim toll

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN  
IN AGDAM

SCATTERED amid the withered grass and bushes along a small valley and across the hillside beyond are the bodies of last Wednesday's massacre by Armenian forces of Azerbaijani refugees.

From that hill can be seen both the Armenian-controlled town of Askeran and the outskirts of the Azerbaijani military headquarters of Agdam. Those who died very nearly made it to the safety of their own lines.

We landed at this spot by helicopter yesterday afternoon as the last troops of the Commonwealth of Independent States began pulling out. They left unharmed by the warring factions as General Boris Gromov, who oversaw the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, flew to



Stepanakert to ease their departure.

A local truce was enforced to allow the Azerbaijanis to collect their dead and any refugees still hiding in the hills and forest. All the same, two attack helicopters circled continuously overhead, watching the nearby Armenian positions.

In all, 31 bodies could be counted at the scene. At least another 31 have been taken into Agdam over the past five days. These figures do not

include civilians reported killed when the Azerbaijanis stormed the Azerbaijani town of Khodjaly on Tuesday night. The figures also do not include other as yet undiscovered bodies.

Zahid Jabarov, a survivor of the massacre, said he saw up to 200 people shot down at the point we visited, and refugees who came by different routes have also told of being shot at repeatedly and of leaving a trail of bodies along their path. Around the bodies we saw were scattered possessions, clothing and personal documents. The bodies themselves have been preserved by the bitter cold which killed others as they hid in the hills and forest after the massacre. All are the bodies of ordinary people, dressed in the poor, ugly clothing of workers.

Of the 31 we saw, only one policeman and two apparent national volunteers were wearing uniform. All the rest were civilians, including eight women and three small children. Two groups, apparently families, had fallen together, the children cradled in the women's arms.

Several of them, including one small girl, had terrible head injuries: only her face was left. Survivors have told how they saw Azerbaijanis shooting them point blank as they lay on the ground.

Eight former Soviet republics, including Armenia and Azerbaijan, were formally admitted to the United Nations yesterday, along with the tiny republic of San Marino. The new members, which also include Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, raise the membership of the world body to 175. (Reuters)



Crying out loud: an Azerbaijani woman in Agdam mourning over the body of her father, one of the many victims of last Wednesday night's mass killing of civilians by Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh. Like many others, he had been scalped

## Moldavia violence claims more lives

FROM RON POPESKI IN MOSCOW

ANIMOSITY between Moldavia's Romanian-speaking majority and ethnic Russians flared into violence again yesterday, with three people shot dead in a confrontation between the police and Russian-speaking militiamen.

The interior ministry said that the head of a local militia was among those killed in a shootout near a textile mill in Dubossary, in the breakaway Dnestr mini-republic proclaimed by Russian-speakers. The town was the scene of fighting between police officers and

the militia last December in which at least five people were killed.

Moldavian authorities, who promote closer ties between their former Soviet republic and neighbouring Romania, blamed yesterday's incident on the Russian-speaking Dnestr region. Moldavia refuses to recognise its secession. It said that the leaders of Dnestr's separatist forces backed by reactionary forces "to undermine Moldavia's plans to join the United Nations. (Reuters)

## Nationalists step up struggle for China province

FROM JASPER BECKER  
IN ALMA-ATA

EXILED Uighur nationalists from the troubled province of Xinjiang, in China's far west, have vowed to launch a new struggle for independence from a base in the neighbouring republic of Kazakhstan.

"We will start a guerrilla war and seek international recognition for our cause," a spokesman for the Front for the Liberation of Uighuristan said in Alma-Ata, the capital

of Kazakhstan. Last month up to six people died when several bombs exploded in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, in what appears to have been an action by Uighur extremists. The bombs were hidden on several buses and went off during Chinese New Year festivities.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack. Uighurs in Kazakhstan denied any involvement and said they had yet to obtain any weapons. They accused the Chinese of creating a

present for further oppression. "The bombs are a Chinese provocation," the spokesman said. "We are now very afraid of what will happen to our people in Xinjiang."

China has had difficulties in controlling the six million Uighurs in Xinjiang since it removed the independent government of the so-called "East Turkestan Republic" in 1949. Ethnic tensions between the Uighurs, a Turkic-speaking Muslim people, and Chinese immigrants



have sharpened in recent years. Peking has used troops to suppress several revolts. About 250,000 Uighurs live in Kazakhstan and many

fled across the border in the late 1950s. The Uighurs, who share a similar culture and language with the Uzbeks of what was formerly Soviet Central Asia, have been inspired by the independence achieved by the Central Asian republics. "We estimate there are one million Uighurs in the former Soviet Union," Turgan Kazimovich, the editor of an Uighur newspaper, said. "We now hope we can have our own state and join our relatives in our motherland."

## Ministers halt aid plan for republics

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers have turned down European Commission plans to assemble a Marshall Plan-style programme of help for the Commonwealth of Independent States, insisting that economic reform should not be confused by too many international bodies.

The ministers agreed to try to remove obstacles which are blocking the release of \$875 million in credits to buy food and medicines, saying they would ask finance ministers to relax conditions for the loans. They otherwise reacted cautiously to a plea from Frans Andriessen, the EC's foreign affairs commissioner, that unless the Community moved beyond emergency aid

to economic stabilisation, some governments in the commonwealth would not survive. Mr Andriessen has recently returned from visiting the four largest republics — Ukraine, Belarusia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Ministers agreed to leave help for the republics' economies in the hands of bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). There was no discussion of a separate or parallel EC initiative. "Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said afterwards. He said the enemy of the Western aid programme was confusion: there were too few institutions able to cope in the commonwealth and too many in the West trying to help."

The meeting also agreed that the Community should start trade and co-operation negotiations with the four largest republics immediately. Kazakhstan, which shares a border with China, announced at the weekend that it would like to join the EC. During his visit, Mr Andriessen told President Nazarbayev that the Community's Treaty of Rome restricted membership in European states.

Mr Andriessen told yesterday's meeting that the food supply in the republics he had visited was "difficult but not disastrous" although political problems were "disquieting". Democracy had not yet taken root. "Despite elections, the old power structure remains in place in most states, albeit with new faces, party names and programmes." Officials who had accompanied Mr Andriessen on his commonwealth trip said that the Commission was worried that IMF help would operate too slowly to prevent political turmoil in the poorest states.

Mr Hurd attacked: Mr Hurd yesterday led an attack by EC foreign ministers after Jacques Delors, the president of the Commission, laid out his plans for a large increase in the Community's budget. Mr Hurd said M Delors was requesting rises in national contributions that would give Brussels about an extra \$14 billion between now and 1997, but that \$9 billion could be found without altering the budget. He challenged M Delors' argument that the five-year budget represented no more than the bill for commitments made in the Maastricht treaty.

## Germans reject EC union

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

ALMOST three-quarters of all Germans now believe that their country cannot afford further European union, according to a Wickert Institute poll. The findings underline the way in which public opinion has been aroused against the dropping of the mark in favour of a common European currency and they show concern has grown about the cost of European integration since the Maastricht summit.

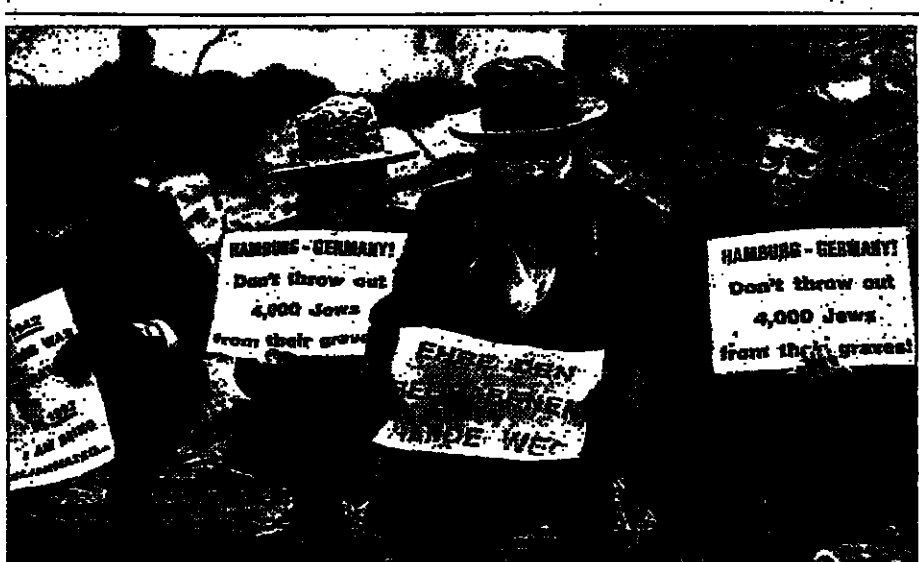
The anti-European feeling is particularly strong among

the young. The Wickert poll showed that 87 per cent of those aged to 30 felt that the cost of further European union would be too great, while 60 per cent in the 31 to 50 age group shared the same worry.

Bill, the popular daily newspaper which has been spearheading the campaign to save the mark, has now pointed out that EC taxes will cost every German 380.40 marks (£133.50) this year. The newspaper says that pro-

posals by Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, would raise an extra 10 per cent in each of the next five years.

Such anti-EC sentiments are relatively new in Germany, but they have even spread to the annual Rhine-land carnival. A huge model cow, representing the EC, was dragged through Düsseldorf in the carnival procession yesterday. She was being fed with marks but produced only manure in return.



Sit-down protest: Orthodox Jews in Hamburg demonstrating against plans to build shops on the site of a 350-year-old Jewish cemetery yesterday

## Former Stasi chief comes to his senses

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

ERICH Mielke, East Germany's former head of state security who has apparently feigned senility for over a year to escape trial, has regained his senses in a sudden change of tactics.

"I thought I was going mad, but I am not quite mad yet," he told the *Berliner Zeitung* newspaper and announced that he intends to defend himself against the charge of having shot dead two policemen in a communist street battle in 1931.

Herr Mielke's defence had hoped that the case would not proceed beyond the first few days, due to the time which has elapsed since the incident occurred or that the court would be convinced of the former minister's unfitness for trial. Judge Theodor Seidel, however, has become impatient with the delaying tactics and insisted that the evidence must be heard.

That seems to have been the catalyst for Herr Mielke's revival. Yesterday, he appeared in court for the first time without his absurd pork pie leather hat and with his hair neatly combed. He spent last week's hearings moaning and mumbling in the bullproof dock, but this time he remained silent and listened to the first reading of evidence from the Berlin police

records of 1931-3 with his eyes downcast. The prosecution is anxious not to base its case too heavily on the damning testament gathered by the Nazis after 1933 and possibly gained by torturing communist witnesses.

In his interview, Herr Mielke said that he had been "a simple functionary" in the 30s and added: "I ran like a terrier from house to house doing out 50-pennig brochures. One was called, 'How should you behave in court?'. He also said that he was prepared to die for his party before correcting himself: "There was a party in those days."

Herr Mielke defended the record of his ministry which held files on 5.5 million East Germans and admitted that he feared their wrath more than the retribution of the courts. "There was peace and order then. People could walk on the streets — women as well. They will keep me in here for ever. Out there they would kill me."

He said that he had nothing to do with the mines and automatic shooting devices installed at the border. Asked what he felt about the 200 people, who had been killed as they tried to flee, he said: "As human beings I feel sorry for them, but they knew that they were putting themselves in danger."

To the confusion of the public, the former minister, hitherto demonised as the worst of the regime's figures, cut a more convincing figure than many others of the former elite. He agreed that senior party functionaries had lived in far better circumstances than the working class they claimed to represent. His turnaround seems calculated as a distinctly unorthodox tactic to throw the spotlight of blame on to Erich Honecker, the former leader, whose extradition Bonn has demanded from Moscow where he is in hospital.

Herr Mielke indicated that he would be prepared to give information on how many of the state's atrocities Herr Honecker had been responsible for and appears to be intent on revenge. Margot Honecker, the former leader's wife and former education minister, who has blamed the Stasi for the abuses of human rights in the East. "Nobody was better informed than I as to what Honecker knew and did," he said. "She is trying to whitewash her husband."

## Italian mob pelts minister

Rome: Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, had to be rescued by police wielding truncheons when left-wing demonstrators attacked him during the Venice carnival near his home on the Grand Canal (John Phillips wires).

About 200 people, protesting at what they see as excessive commercialism during this year's carnival, confronted the minister as he walked to a lunch appointment at the Hotel Monaco. The crowd pelted Signor De Michelis with coins and throwaway cigarette lighters and spat at his four bodyguards. Some chanted "De Michelis is obese, he will be hanged".

Police charged the crowd and Signor De Michelis was able to run to the hotel as the protesters dispersed.

## Picasso stolen

Nice: A Picasso painting, *Hidalgo with Doves*, has been stolen from the Sophienopolis business centre outside Antibes despite a complex security system. The painting is valued at more than \$570,000. It was presented to the centre 12 years ago by the painter's widow, Jacqueline. (Reuters)

## Law chief goes

Prague: President Havel dismissed Ivan Gasparovic, Czechoslovakia's general prosecutor, who had been accused by parliamentarians of failing to pursue former communist officials who abused their power. (Reuters)

## Treaty hope

Moscow: Russia and Japan should be able to sign a peace treaty by the end of the century, bringing second world war hostilities to a formal end, Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former Japanese prime minister, said. (Reuters)

## Greek passion

Brussels: About 2,000 ethnic Greeks, shouting "Macedonia is Greek", demonstrated outside a meeting of EC foreign ministers here in opposition to any EC move to recognise the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. (Reuters)

## Fast and lose

Amsterdam: A man caught driving his £100,000 Ferrari 348GT at 150mph — twice the limit — may lose it under Dutch law giving authorities the right to confiscate and sell a car more than 45mph over the limit. (AP)

## Moscow defends its scientists

FROM MARY DEFEVSKY  
IN MOSCOW

SEPARATE spokesmen in Moscow yesterday denied categorically that any Russian scientists were working for Middle Eastern countries on nuclear-related projects. Their denials came in response to a report in a West German newspaper which claimed that Iraq had recruited about 50 nuclear scientists from the former Soviet Union.

Academician Yevgeni Velikhov, who heads the Kurchatov scientific institute in Moscow, said: "Several hundred of our scientists do work there [the Middle East] on contract, but these are experts from a completely different field."

Vitali Churkin, the Russian foreign ministry spokesman, said: "I know it is not true. We have never had any co-operation with Iraq in the nuclear area."

Asked how he could be so sure, Mr Churkin said that the foreign ministry information department had checked and rechecked, and its information was reliable. Mr Churkin added that the Kurchatov institute in Moscow had nothing to do with the development or the manufacture of nuclear weapons. He said that its work was purely theoretical and was concentrated in the energy field.

## An Englishwoman's home is no castle

BY ANNE McELVOY

Like it or not, I am to be legitimized. The two letters from the Federal Office for the Administration of Assets leave no doubt about the inadequacies of my east Berlin abode.

The assets office informs me that the so-called double-glazed windows let in damp and dirt and that the front door is too insecure to count for insurance purposes — which had occurred to me after I discovered that it was possible to break in in 45 seconds using no more than a nail file. Nevertheless it is depressing to have it officially confirmed. The balcony, too, is apparently in need of structural strengthening to prevent it falling on some luckless passer-by's head.

Having sorted out the immediate business of unifying the two Germanies, Bonn has turned its attention to the condition of the

former East Germany's state housing stock that was formerly the privileged residence of correspondents and diplomats. This is not as altruistic as it sounds, since improved housing stock means higher rents from the former state housing sector and so more money for Bonn's rapidly dwindling coffers.

We were unceremoniously handed over from the East's Office for the Provision of Services (which it didn't) to the West's asset administration office. The only noticeable difference is that the latter uses a more impenetrable vocabulary.

The Arnold Zweigstrasse, named after a modestly talented but properly socialist German poet when it was laid out in the early Seventies, is not an architectural triumph, consisting of identical grey multi-storey blocks. It was definitely sec-

ond-tier accommodation for visitors East Germany had little interest in impressing.

Since unification, most of the Third World diplomats and businessmen have moved out of my street, for which our lives are the poorer. The Cuban trade attaché opposite, whose main purpose in the old German Democratic Republic seemed to be the provision of food and alcoholic drinks parties for the rest of us, has left to be replaced by a downy German insurance representative.

No longer, either, does one cast an idle glance out of the window to spot the Laotian family from the sixth floor proudly promenading with their two terriers, the entire ensemble sporting chopstick contraptions to keep their hair in place, dogs included. Downstairs, the charming French-speaking Africans who kept eight

children in a three-room flat without the rest of us ever hearing a squeak from them have been replaced by a wine-importing company from Wolfenbüttel. New and old residents are, however, united in dismay at discovering that we are supposed to fund the orgy of door-renewing, window-replacing and balcony-raising out of our own pockets.

A self-declared reactionary cell has decided that it would prefer to stay scruffy than finance the home-improvement scheme, but it is fighting a losing battle against the desire of the bureaucrats to beautify us. We did ask, however, if those doughty survivors of communism and capitalism, the kitchen cockroaches, could be more effectively disposed of. Sorry, came the answer, that does not fall under home improvement.

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## Serbs set up barricades to block Bosnia secession

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was brought to the brink of civil war yesterday as Serbs took up arms to prevent it leaving Yugoslavia.

The republic's government met in emergency session and condemned the violence that followed the weekend referendum on independence. However, Ruzmir Mahmutcehajic, the deputy prime minister, said that force would not be used to tackle the barricades put up on Sunday night and early yesterday. The government emphasised that talks on the future internal organisation of the republic under the aegis of the European Community would continue.

The Serbian barricades of buses, lorries and refuse lorries were put up after a Serb carrying a flag was shot dead at his son's wedding. A government statement said that while the identities of the killers were known they had not yet been caught.

Serbs make up 31 per cent of Bosnia-Herzegovina's 4.3 million people. The rest of the population is made up of Croats and Muslims. More than half of Sarajevo's inhabitants are Muslims and there are few Croats. However, as in many other parts of Bosnia, the population of the city is inextricably mixed. "I wish I could be put in a state of clinical death for two years, because that is how long it will take to solve this problem," said Samir Djulic, a

half-Serb, half-Muslim newspaper seller in the Muslim heart of Sarajevo.

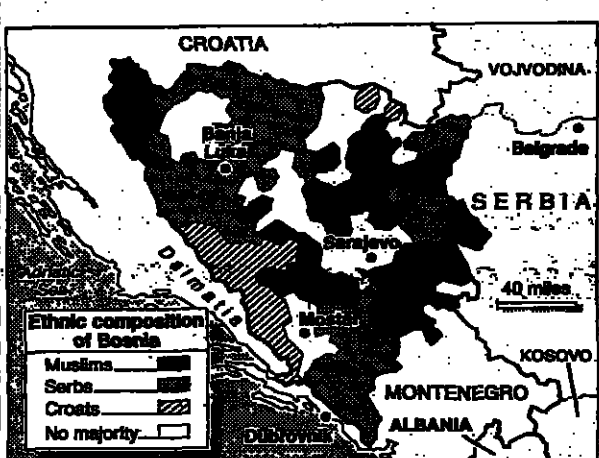
While the Serbs voted last year in their own referendum to stay in whatever remains of Yugoslavia, last weekend's referendum confirmed the refusal of Muslims and Croats to remain in any Serb-dominated rump state. The latest figures showed that there had been a 65 per cent turnout in the referendum, with 64.7 per cent of the electorate voting for independence.

Police stopped traffic on the main road out of Sarajevo in the direction of Belgrade yesterday. The police, which in Sarajevo is a Muslim-dominated force, were joined by civilians carrying Kalashnikov rifles. Some of them were wearing berets with blue badges decorated with the new emblem of Bosnia.

The president of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, pledged to use all his authority among the Bosnian Croats to try to avoid bloodshed and to reach a political solution that would be acceptable to all.

Bosnia boasts a high proportion of federal army military installations and is believed to house a large number of displaced army officers and their families. The federal presidency in Belgrade is expected to call on the European Community not to rush through the recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Sarajevo deaths, page 1



## Gun influx triggers fears of bloodbath

BY ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

Almost half of the 4.3 million inhabitants of Bosnia-Herzegovina own guns, according to the latest estimates from the interior ministry in Sarajevo. In a republic where Muslims, Serbs and Croats live in the same blocks of flats, queue at the same petrol stations and sit in the same cafes, that is the stuff of tragedy.

The prediction made by Vuk Draskovic, the Serbian opposition leader, looks all too accurate: a Serbian secessionist war in Bosnia, he said, could mire Yugoslavia in "blood up to our knees". Gun ownership has a long history in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but the equation has been changing fast over the past few months.

First, weapons, bought cheaply on the black market or imported, have been flowing in rapidly. They are often sophisticated, not wartime antiques. There is a growing readiness to use these weapons, even on the part of the cool-headed Bosnian Muslims, and the Serbs have been encouraged to believe a political solution can be achieved by military means.

The Serbian militants have been receiving their firepower chiefly from the Yugoslav army. Indeed the army, which is now dominated by Serbs in both the officer corps and the rank and file, is the big unknown in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serbs make up 31 per cent of the republic's population compared to 44 per cent of Croats and 19 per cent of Muslims — and even this census figure over-estimates Serbian strength. The high degree of intermarriage means that Serbian radicalism is not as strong as in Croatia. The Serbs would therefore be dependent in an all-out war on the support of the Yugoslav army.

The army is a heavy pres-

ence in the republic but, apart from individual garrisons, it is relatively satisfied with its lot. None the less, it would take only a few militant army commanders and a few local deals with Serbian radicals to ignite the republic.

Fears of a link-up between army commanders and Serbian separatists have led to tolerance over the past six months of a Croatian paramilitary build-up. The Bosnian leadership seems to have been willing to accept a reasonable level of Croat armament as a counterweight to the Yugoslav army, but the numbers have been spinning out of control.

A report suggests the Croat armament, some of which is supplied by the Croatian national guard across the border, is powerful. The self-confidence that has grown with this supply of weaponry, and the European Community's recognition of Croatia, have made the Croats in western Herzegovina more radical.

The Muslims have also become more radical. They are a long way from being an Islamic fundamentalist fighting force, but the trips made by Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, to Turkey, Libya, Iran and Sudan to win diplomatic support, also have a military subtext.

He told a Turkish newspaper last December that he would appeal to friends — primarily Turkey — if the federal army should try to attack. There is no question, it seems, of Turkish military involvement, but Sarajevo has been full of rumours that both Libya and Iran are ready to supply the Muslims. The Muslim strength is not so much in its level of armament as in its control of the organisational structure.

## 'Rimbaud' takes a bow

Jack Lang is in trouble over his choice of Sylvester Stallone for the much respected César film award, writes Philip Jacobson from Paris

THERE was some Gallic head-scratching when Jack Lang, the French culture minister, appeared to announce that Rimbaud was to receive a César, the leading French film award.

Could this be Arthur Rimbaud, the nineteenth-century poet and adventurer? No: the recipient turned out to be Rambo, aka Sylvester Stallone, the muscular American actor. Georges Cravenne, organiser of the César ceremony, insisted that far from being a muscle-bound chump, "Rambo" Stallone is something of an intellectual, who sculpts, paints and writes his own scripts, and who chose the name Rambo as homage to Rimbaud.

In the gilded splendour of the Palais Royal last night, M Lang also pinned the medal of the Ordre des Arts et Lettres on to Warren Beatty's mainly chest. It was the fourth occasion this year on which M Lang has so honoured a visiting American. If Messrs Beatty, Oliver Stone and Lou Reed might be judged to have earned an award for services to film or rock and roll, the decoration of Sylvester Stallone has attracted derision and hostility in French cultural circles.

Of all people, M Lang was

surely the least likely to appreciate Stallone's usual line of grunt-and-gauge Rambo and Rocky epics. He is, after all, the scourge of Yankee "intellectual imperialism", the firebrand who has called for a quota for feeble French pop music on the nation's

radio and poured government money into subsidising France's cherished film industry.

Often a target of media gibes, M Lang has come under particularly heavy fire for the award to Stallone. "Perhaps those already in

the Ordre will conclude that M Lang would never have made such an idiot of himself unless Rambo threatened to destroy France and Rocky to thump the minister," wrote Bernard Pivot, the distinguished literary commentator, in *Le Monde*. Might it not have been more appropriate, he mused, to have presented the warrior from Hollywood with the Légion d'Honneur — "for military prowess, naturally".

Joking apart, M Pivot, who is anything but a cultural xenophobe, maintained that M Lang had utterly devalued the decoration by pressing it upon Stallone. "What upsets me about this case is that Stallone represents the worst of American movies," he concluded tartly.

Those close to M Lang insist that he is grievously misunderstood, being no foe of American culture, but simply opposed to the "unequal relations" that exist in that respect between America and Europe as a whole.



## Japanese fight for tuna haul

FROM JOANNA PITMAN  
IN KYOTO

MORE than 100 placard-waving Japanese tuna fishermen set an early tone of confrontation as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species met in Kyoto. They were protesting against a Swedish plan to list west Atlantic blue fin tuna as an endangered species.

The fishermen shouted slogans arguing that the Japanese should be allowed to continue to eat 450,000 tonnes a year of tuna sashimi, the oily raw fish delicacy found on every Japanese gourmet's dinner table.

Sweden, which has seen its fish stocks sharply depleted over the past decade, proposes to ban all trade in west Atlantic blue fin tuna, citing scientific evidence that the fish's adult population has declined by more than 90 per cent in the past 20 years. Japan is the world's biggest importer of tuna and in 1990 consumed three-quarters of all tuna caught in the western Atlantic. However, Japanese fishermen deny that the species is endangered.

## Country singer on road to recovery

Tammy Wynette, the country and western star, is expected to be released from hospital in Mackay, Australia, after treatment for an infection. She had collapsed just before a performance on Saturday.

China's *Youth Post* newspaper is tipping Oliver Stone, director of *JFK*, to turn his hand to the life of Mao Tse-tung. However, local sources said they would be surprised if Peking allowed Mr Stone to go to China to film Mao's life, which is still a sensitive topic.

Sir Peter Ustinov, the actor and raconteur, is to be installed as chancellor of Durham University on May 7.

Prince Edward has left for a four-day camping trip in the jungles of Brunei to learn about the Royal Geographical Society's rain forest project at Kuala Belalong.

Gloria Estefan, the Cuban-American singer, belted out a Colombian dance standard, *Yo Me Llamo Cumbia*, during a concert for 60,000 fans

in Bogotá. "Never before has an artist captured the hearts of so many Bogotanos," *El Tiempo* newspaper said.

Gary Kasparov is to defend his world chess championship title on August 14, 1993. His challenger will come from semi-finalists Anatoly Karpov and Artur Yusupov, both of Russia, Nigel Short of Britain, and Jan Timman of The Netherlands.

A *Spitting Image* puppet of the Rev Ian Paisley is expected to fetch £500 at Bonhams in London next week.

Constantin Bagration, a pretender to the Georgian throne, is in hospital after suffering a heart attack in Tbilisi. Mr Bagration, who lives in Spain, is in the republic for a private visit.

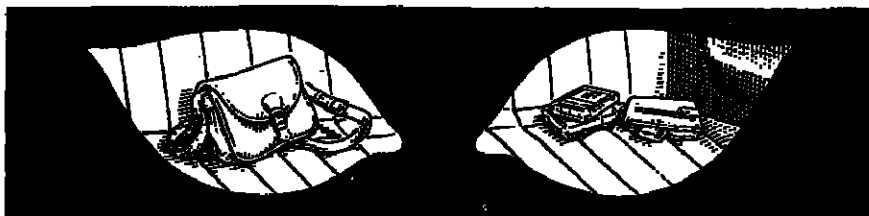
The Irish band U2 start their first American tour for five years on Saturday. They have been rehearsing in Lakeland, Florida, and Frank O'Reilly, the mayor, said he wanted to give them a key to the city.



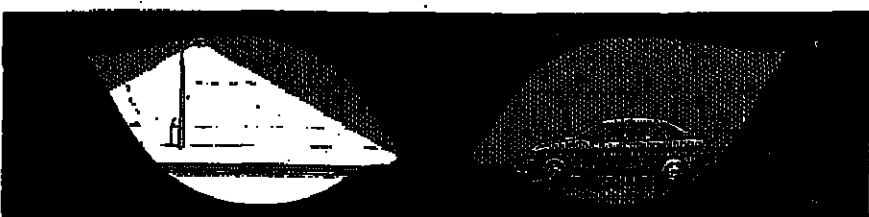
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## Escape to the past

America craves nostalgia, writes Charles Bremner

For an exercise in nostalgia, nothing could beat America's coronation last week of the late Nat King Cole for a song he made famous 40 years ago. Millions tuned in to the Grammy awards ceremony to watch him, or at least his image, join his daughter Natalie in a rendition of "Unforgettable". Hailing a posthumous performance as record of the year, may have had its macabre side, but it gave the country a chance to waft itself back into the land of bobby sox, meat-loaf and high school hops, a sunny place which seems to be ever more attractive.

Flight into an imagined past is proving a popular solace for Americans in these times of malaise, as a stroll down Broadway confirms. The theatres are enjoying a boom, but nearly all the shows are revived antiquities. Even the acclaimed new musical *Crazy for You* turns out to be a rehash of the *Gershwin's Girl Crazy* under a politically correct name. Further down town at the Lighthouse Club, customers can escape into cyberspace. The club is one of several offering excursions into virtual reality, the 3-D computerised world projected inside a closed helmet and electrode-laden suit. The vogue for such digital thrills has enshrined "virtual" as the catchword of the season, to be applied to any electronic artifice. For those tired of virtual life (television), for example, there is always virtual sex (erotic phone services).

Lately, however, America has been quite happily plunging into unreality without the aid of computers or nostalgic songs. How else can one explain the ever more fanciful creeds and movements, from the Celtic myth-making of presidential contender Pat Buchanan to the tribal demonisation of white men and the crackpot conspiracy theories swirling through the popular culture? Escape certainly lies behind such crazes as the men's movement, in which suburbanites rush to the woods to bash drums and discover the inner child. Then there are the attempts to legislate reality away, the latest being a lobbyist-by-law in Santa Cruz which forbids discrimination on grounds of a person's appearance. The most pervasive of all escapes is the cult of self-esteem, which has grown from Californian fad to a unified-field theory for all ills, from nailbiting to mass murder. Schools, businesses and prisons are now busy administering the elixir of positive self-image to cure any condition.

The country certainly feels that it has a lot to escape from, and it seems to be growing more morbid by the day. Look, for example, at the wave of advertising which tries to terrify the customer with images of death and injury. As well as Benetton's infamous AIDS adverts, the Timex watch company is featuring people who have suffered brain damage, while Nike footwear is running a glossy campaign which reminds consumers that time's winged chariot is roaring down the freeway to get them.

So what is making America so morose? As a perplexed Allan Greenspan, the chief of the Federal Reserve, keeps pointing out, the country seems to be suffering from a doom gap, a gulf between the apocalyptic anxiety and the merely moderate depth of the recession. A consensus is forming that the malaise marks the end of a cycle in American history, one which began 45 years ago with the post-war surge of prosperity and American self-confidence. Returning from three years abroad, an editor at *The Chicago Tribune* said the other day that she had found her country in the grip of nervous breakdown. The cause, she said, seemed to be the Europeanisation of the American mind, a painful process that involves shedding the sunny conviction that all problems can be solved, and espousing the weary realism of the old world that life is basically tough.

Robert Samuelson took seven pages in *Newsweek* to explain that the country is being forced to go into cold turkey after a 40-year escape into utopia. The Age of Enlightenment was over and the American Dream with it, he said. "Our pillars of faith are now crashing about us. We are discovering that we cannot, as we had once supposed, create prosperity at will. America is still fairly wealthy and strong, but whatever happens, we cannot recapture the past." Somebody had better tell the recording industry, which is busy searching its archives in the race to cash in on the triumph of "Unforgettable".

Too often arts programmes ignore the mainstream events that we want to hear about, says Janet Daley

## Only a fringe attraction

Hearing that his own working party had criticised the BBC's television coverage of the arts for over-emphasising "counter-culture" must have brought a flush of smug satisfaction to many faces. And I admit that mine was one of them. Some months ago when *The Late Show* team asked me to contribute a paper to a seminar about their own future, I had made the same sort of criticisms.

I wrote then that for perfectly sound broadcasting reasons, the programme had had to develop an identifiable tone of voice and the one which had been chosen seemed to be that of a trendy liberal studies department staffed by graduates in women's studies and interdisciplinary media. There seemed to be an assumption that the audience must be composed exclusively of people with the same priorities and prejudices, and an almost naive failure to understand just how many potential viewers do not share this world view. *The Late Show* — which absorbs most of BBC television's arts budget — would argue that it

does cover the mainstream high arts, but that it seeks to do so in experimental ways. What this amounts to, as often as not, is subsuming even the familiar classical arts into the atmosphere of avant-gardism which dominates the programme. We are all aware now of the iniquity of artistic snobbery: of the need to break down the notion that high culture is only for a socially acceptable élite. All of us, presumably, want an end to the old exclusivities. But new exclusivities can be equally intimidating. You can scare people off the arts by persuading them that they are not eligible to join your club unless they accept a package of views which is essentially left-wing, feminist and anti-establishment just as well as by turning up your nose at their accents or manners.

By making rock music, political fringe theatre and the

ephemera of media youth culture the motifs against which all discussion is held, and by hiring trendy young presenters (*Blue Peter* meets *Time Out*?) the programme suggests that the arts belong to a fashionable circle of people speaking in self-congratulatory code. Even coverage of the forms of high art which more and more people are finding accessible (such as classical music) is drawn into the web by abstruse or perverse treatment, which is simply alienating to the outsider.

The prevailing left-wing tenor of arts discussion cannot be ignored. Not that it is illegitimate to deal in its own terms with an artistic area where left-wing opinion makes most of the running (such as contemporary theatre). What repels is the overweening complacency, the clear message that we all share the same post-1960s assumptions about the need to politicise the arts. What must the novice make of this? Imagine someone who has had little or no higher education but who has real intellectual curiosity and aspirations. Suppose he (or she) is, in a tentative way, trying to find his way to the life of the mind through his local library and the intelligent media. Suppose also that he is the first generation of



Avant garde: *The Late Show's* Sarah Dunant

mate to deal in its own terms with an artistic area where left-wing opinion makes most of the running (such as contemporary theatre). What repels is the overweening complacency, the clear message that we all share the same post-1960s assumptions about the need to politicise the arts. What must the novice make of this? Imagine someone who has had little or no higher education but who has real intellectual curiosity and aspirations. Suppose he (or she) is, in a tentative way, trying to find his way to the life of the mind through his local library and the intelligent media. Suppose also that he is the first generation of

his family to own his own home, to take holidays abroad and to have enough money to spend on a CD player for which he is beginning to collect classical music. And suppose further that he attributes many of these advantages (rightly or wrongly) to the political culture of the Thatcher years.

What sort of message is he getting from this sort of programming? That this is the way really artistic people think? That unless he is a party to this mental set, he has no right to participate in the world of ideas? I am not talking about politics specifically, but about lifestyle and perhaps about tolerance and true open-mindedness. What ought to be important is that people are given access to the life of reason and sensibility, whether or not they end up agreeing with the programme-makers (or the artists). For this to happen, the experience of art

has to be separated from the received opinion of the moment. Which is not to say that you can't have some esoteric programming devoted to the incoherent murmurings of specialists, only that arts programmes should not be exclusively and monolithically like this.

British television has become quite adept at introducing serious arts to a wide audience through popular programmes (think of the use of opera in *Inspector Morse*), but it fails to offer much help to those initiates who wish to go further. There is nothing to span the gulf between that first glimmer of interest and the arcane mysteries of the cognoscenti. Those secret gardens to which arts programmes should hold the key are not the sole province of anyone's circle of friends, or any particular generation, or any group of political bedfellows.

One of the great privileges of artistic experience is that it offers a route to independence of spirit. It is pernicious to suggest, even subliminally, that only the like-minded may legitimately join in.

## Scotland's false romanticism

Jonathan Clark argues that the Scots must accept that their past is not as simple or as glorious as they like to believe

Scots nationalism, we are told, is the spectre haunting the politics of the United Kingdom. Like Banquo's ghost, the spirit of this proud and ancient nation, foully murdered and long unpropitiated, will return to haunt the feast over which the English presumptuously reside.

The force of the Scottish National Party's case derives less from calculations of future economic advantage for a separated Scotland or from ethnic or religious antagonism between Scots and English, than from this invocation of an ancient national identity, waiting in the wings to receive its just, natural and therefore inevitable reward.

More than any other party in British or Irish politics, the SNP's case is overtly historical. Labour has ceased to preach the long march, the everman. Conservatives have given up trying to invent a genealogy for John Major's timeless administrative expertise. In daily politics, even the Ulster parties' mental horizons seldom extend further back than the 1960s civil rights movement, despite vivid images of the Battle of the Boyne and the siege of Londonderry. Scots nationalism is different. It claims its historic heritage. And this is its weak point.

Far from being uplifted by their history, the Scots have over many centuries been strikingly bad at maintaining and developing a useful sense of national identity. Worse, Scotland lost much of the self-image it once possessed. Medieval Scotland was a considerable achievement of dynastic politics over poverty and localism. It boasted four universities to England's two, and into the 16th century, Scottish culture was famous



The Union of 1707: since then cries for independence have echoed Jacobite yearnings for the king over the water

across Europe. This mental world of renaissance latinity sustained a Scots identity built around dynastic history and religion rather than the folk culture of Robert Burns. It was this which went disastrously wrong. The accession of the Stuarts to the English throne in 1603 should have been a jackpot for needy Scots, but the English resisted too close an integration, and the uncompromising Calvinism of John Knox's Reformation now caused divisive conflict in Scotland over a Stuart dynasty whose loyalties swung first to Canterbury, then to Rome.

The Glorious Revolution, ardently espoused by Scots Presbyterians, began the break-up and suppression of this high culture of latinity, episcopalianism and dynastic legitimacy. With dour thoroughness, episcopalianism and nonjurers were expelled from their posts as clergy, schoolmasters and academics, and were subjected to lasting and effective persecution.

Presbyterians hailed William III, and later the Hanoverians, as saviours of their religious and civil liberties; but, far more than in England, Scots were divided. Presbyterianism survived at the cost of sacrificing a national identity which had grown up in another mental world.

The Union of 1707 was similarly debilitating, for it rested on the Whig doctrine that Scots and English identities had been subsumed. Scotland became North Britain, inhibited from asserting its separatist sense by the result of Stuart, Catholic tyranny. In the same spirit, the luminaries of the Scottish Enlightenment thought themselves emancipated from the feudal inheritances of Scottishness. The more they were quietly patronised as provincials, the more Scots intellectuals de-

clared themselves to be citizens of the world.

Old self-images cut little ice in a new age. When Scots boasted of their long genealogies and their ancestral achievements, English culture turned them into stage Scotsmen. This was grossly unfair to an ancient civilisation, but cultural politics is never fair. English historiography, politics and letters swamped Scottish society more effectively than Hanoverian arms subdued the Highlands.

Practical Scots, such as Pitt's henchman Henry Dundas, began to dip their hands into the jam pot of imperial prosperity. Resentful Scots, such as Henry Brougham, James Mackintosh and James Mill migrated to London and attached themselves to English reformers, whether the aristocratic Whigs

of Holland House or the utilitarians in the circle of Jeremy Bentham. Yet the goal of the Scots was to reconstruct British society in their image, not to put back the clock of Scottish integration. Moreover they were rationalists. *The Edinburgh Review* attacked the English Lake Poets for their democratic impulses, but thereby also rejected their romantic nationalism.

Keir Hardie, the first Labour MP, supported Scottish independence, but once the Labour party took hold in Scotland, its electoral base there was too valuable to lose. The stronger Scots MPs' socialism became, the weaker was their nationalism. Yet even more Scots reached high office in the Liberal and Conservative parties, and whatever the Liberals' attitude to Ireland, they too hung onto their Scottish base. As Lord Rosebery, later Liberal prime minister, privately complained, "Justice for Ireland means everything done for her."

even to the payment of the natives' debts. Justice to Scotland means insulting neglect." In European history, nationalism is assumed to be a single phenomenon which, once launched, can only grow. Scotland's history shows us a variety of forms of national self-awareness, some triumphalist, others self-abnegatory. Given the antiquity of Scottish society, its well-recorded and distinctive achievements in religion and politics, law and letters, what is remarkable is the weakness of Scots nationalism. Sir Walter Scott recreated an older world of dynastic power politics and armed rebellion only when it could no longer harm.

The Edinburgh Parliament, strictly only adjourned before the Union of 1707: nationalists claim it did not abolish itself. Since then, schemes for devolution or looser union have been commonplace. In 1970, even Scottish Tories voted by four to one to back the plan of Alec Douglas Home's constitutional committee for a third Scottish chamber of the British parliament. The English have often contemplated such schemes with indulgence, but these plans were never grafted onto the cultural roots of nationalism. The invented Victorian trappings of kilts and tartans were not enough.

The SNP taps widespread commitments: many Scots have been led, against the evidence, to expect economic gains from independence. But there is more than a whiff of nostalgic retro-heros about the movement, an echo of Jacobite yearnings for a king over the water. Will he not come back again? Will some ancient national identity not return to assuage Scotland's unhappiness and solve its practical problems by its charismatic, atavistic authority? The historian may be sceptical. The past has not performed that function for the Scots for many centuries. There are few good reasons for expecting it to do so in our unhistorical present.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

My wife has just completed the most tedious task of the most tedious kind, and all I can claim to have done in the elapsed time is to ruminate on the bizarre fact that as soon as you put a brand name in print these days you will like as not get a letter from the lawyers representing said name to the effect that you had better not do it again or they will sue (Xerox to the editor).

There, I have done it already. Photocopy to the editor is what I should have said, Xerox being "the registered trade mark of Rank Xerox Ltd and Xerox Corp, 338 Euston Road". Not the likeliest address for a corp. I will grant, you associate a corp with the United States but in these transatlantic days a corp is a moveable feast.

The *UK Press Gazette* is where I found it. A supplement therein this week reminds backs that a surprisingly large number of companies will pay folding money for space in which to advertise the strange fact that they do not, thanks very much, require any free publicity so will we please stop saying Xerox when we mean copy and could we please refrain from Hoovering the house when what we mean is vacuuming.

Which very neatly brings us to the oddly familiar Smith and Nephew, but not before we have ripped smartly backwards to page two of yesterday's *Times*, graced as it was by a piece under the byline of yours truly

concerning a certain amount of grief on the M4. "Portakabins" was the word I used in that piece as submitted, but a smart sub-editor who gets his *Press Gazette* before I do changed it to "three portable offices", which put me in my place. Or as the ad in the *UKPG* expresses it: "Portakabin is not a generic term for portable buildings". Of course for all the sub-editor knew, they might have been Portakabins. I might have sprawled in the mud to ascertain from the nameplate the precise type and place of manufacture. I could have done, oh all right, I didn't. I think I shall switch to the tabloids, you do not get this sort of nonsense with them. "Tabloid: pharmaceutical products, registered trade mark of the Wellcome Foundation Ltd. Not a newspaper format." Heck, really? I have telephoned my GP to ask for *The Sun* on prescription, but he is now a fund-holder with a specified drugs list and claims that *The Sun* is not among those present. And they wonder at the state of the health service.

As for you, you were wondering if I had forgotten Smith and Nephew. *UKPG*, page 21: "Elastoplast is a trademark owned by T.J. Smith and Nephew Ltd. Elastoplast is not a generic word meaning first-aid dressings or plasters. Please use only with a capital 'E' and only as an adjective."

Now wait a minute. Did T.J. write that last bit, or was it his nephew, a right little know-all if

I have the breed correct, a bit overfond of telling auntie and uncle what mummy did when daddy was at that weekend seminar, a bit prone to bursting balloons behind your car when you are trying to watch the football.

I can quite see how companies get a tad miffed about their names being taken in vain. I can understand their litigious reaction when someone writes "I put Elastoplast on but it fell off" when they really mean an entirely different brand of plaster made by F.E. Jones and Second Cousin, but I am damned if T.J. and Nephew are going to teach me grammar. What Elastoplast is is a proprietary name, that is what it is and if it were not that it would be a noun. But an adjective it is not. Adjective: "Additional, not standing by itself, dependent." (You will be relieved to hear that the definition comes from the dictionary, not the *Press Gazette*: adjective is not yet a brand name, except in the most important sense that the English language owns it.)

Which only leaves me to ease the tension that has been apparent since you read paragraph one, speculating as you have been as to what on earth has happened to the house as a consequence of my wife Spanglering it. The good Mr Spangler was an American janitor, or as we say caretaker, who invented the vacuum cleaner. Thus Spanglering. I trust that will keep Mr Hoover quiet, but I am ever ready to be confounded.

### Gravy train stops short

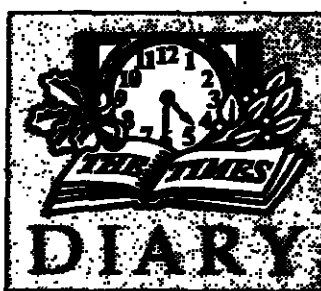
ALTHOUGH the EC summit in Edinburgh next December will bring millions of pounds in revenue, councillors are whingeing that they have received only a fraction of the sum the government has committed to Manchester's bid for the Olympics.

Council chiefs say they have been forced to raise poll-tax bills by £3 a head to offset the expense of policing. Ministers have agreed to pay half the £4 million security bill, but the Edinburgh organisers say that when the summit was held in Maastricht, security costs were reimbursed by the Dutch government.

Adrian Shinwell, president-elect of the Scottish Conservative party, says: "I deplore the parsimonious attitude of Lothian, Edinburgh, as the centre of international attention for this vital European summit, can only be bested."

Critics of the plaintive Edinburgh councillors point to the Maastricht bash, which transformed the town from a Dutch backwater into a place everyone in Europe has heard of and many can even spell. The city has allocated £109,000 for "promoting Edinburgh", but some of the city's councillors maintain that they have been presented with a poisoned, and pricey, chalice. To press home its pleas of impecuniosity, the council has chosen a most unglamorous venue from which to co-ordinate promotion of the city: an empty caretaker's flat in the council offices.

At yesterday's launch of *National Dyslexia Week*, the Duke of Westminster achieved a remarkable *Dogberryism*, introducing junior education minister Michael Falloon as Michael Flannel.



### Camping out

DAME SHIRLEY PORTER, Peter Lilley and Sir Peter Imbert have all, in their time, shown a talent for amateur theatricals, which may explain why they have each been invited to take part in a Good Friday enactment of the Passion Play in Victoria Street, one of London's busiest thoroughfares.

"I am delighted by the invitation," says Dame Shirley, while diplomatically declining to say which part she thought would suit her. "I will happily take part if I can."

Peter Lilley, a practising Anglican, whose office is in Victoria Street, is also keen. "I think he would like the part of one of the Three Wise Men," says an aide, perhaps confused by the leap year into thinking it is Christmas. "Or all of them."

A new Tory poster rails against "Labour's Double Whammy", but nobody seems quite sure what a whammy, double or single, actually is. An embarrassed spokesman at Central Office, leaving through various dictionaries, finally announced that it meant a "crippling curse or double misfortune". If people have to turn to a dictionary to understand the ad, it must count as a double-edged whammy.

### Necessities

ONE of our most adept diplomatic wives, Lady Braithwaite, wife of the British ambassador in Moscow, could last year be seen providing nourishment to demonstrators on the barricades outside the Russian parliament; to-night she is in Durbur Court in the Foreign Office feeding cabinet ministers, diplomats and other well-heeled guests at the launch of her charity, British Emergency Action in Russia and the Republics (Bearr).

"Standing outside Moscow's White House on the night of the coup, I realised I was watching a country come out of the ice age. To

prevent it disintegrating, we have to act immediately," she says.

The Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor, as well as members of the Kirov Ballet will be among the 400 guests supporting Bearr's welfare aims.

"Britain has tremendously strong links with Russia. Towns want to help their twins, people want to help distant relatives," Lady Braithwaite explains. The Braithwaites, who will be returning to Britain in the spring, have already set an example in tracing

lost relatives: a family of Braithwaites, she says, emigrated to Russia in the 1850s and started a paper factory.

### Troubled water

CHRISTIE'S is unexpectedly withdrawing Constable's *Harnham Bridge*, near Salisbury from its scheduled spring sale. "I have been advised verbally that although we have a contract, we are to release the picture back to the consigner," says Noel Annesley, the deputy chairman of Christie's International.

There is speculation in the art world that a rift over the value of the painting has developed between Christie's and the vendor, Lucy Phillips, widow of the Queen's cousin, the late Nicholas Phillips, who died last spring leaving debts of £1 million.

Mrs Phillips is under pressure to break up the family's famous *Wernher* collection, which also includes works by Titian and Rubens. The Constable was to be the first painting to go under the hammer. Mrs Phillips is said to have expected at least £1 million from the sale, but experts say the painting is in poor condition and might earn her considerably less.

A ripple of eager anticipation ran round the Times offices with the news that the paper's "Keep our wits about you" posters, featuring excerpts from our columnists and writers, has won an award for best copy from the Creative Circle advertising awards. Who was to be honoured, we wondered? At the awards ceremony yesterday, however, it emerged that it was not our wits, but yours that have carried off the prize, which goes to the poster featuring a selection of letters to the Editor. Congratulations.







## DARLING BUDS IN MAY?

British prime ministers dislike fixed-term parliaments because they would deny them room for manoeuvre. A variable election date means they can go to the country when it suits their convenience. They can play tunes on the electoral keyboard. Public spending, tax-cuts, foreign trips: all can be exploited to maximise party gain.

So why is John Major still planning to go to the country on April 9, which is looking less and less like a good date for him? The longer he refuses to say when he is going, the more people will take it for granted he is going in April, and the harder it is to go when his interests dictate he should, on May 7 or later. The delay would make it look as if he is running scared. He has allowed the blessed flexibility of the British constitution to be a trap. Mr Major is losing the initiative.

The arguments for waiting until at least May 7 remain as strong as a month ago — though abandoning April must soon be so damaging as to cancel them out. For the country's sake, May 7 shares a date with local elections. It also puts a decent period for reflection after the Budget to enable policy to be judged more in the round. For the Tories' sake, the case for May is even stronger. Ministers have so lavishly presold the Budget that, in stockmarket parlance, it is already discounted. Worried Tories are even pondering the electoral appeal of a "responsible" Budget which minimised tax cuts.

There is a high risk in declaring an election campaign open with a Budget in the midst of a recession. All attention will focus on the economy, black hole of so many political reputations. Norman Lamont will be pitched against John Smith. The Tory belief that the public is lying when it says it prefers public spending to tax cuts will be tested to destruction.

The government's interests lie in putting a distance between Budget and ballot, not

because the Budget need be bad news but because any good news will take time to soak through the electoral filter bed. The cabinet is clearly vulnerable on public borrowing, whether or not Labour is top. The promised give-aways, touchingly referred to by ministers as a "budget for jobs", will be easy to snaffle but take longer to notice across the supermarket counter. And if the much-vaunted recovery really is on the way and the Treasury has the courage of its convictions, the longer the election is postponed the more obviously will spring follow winter.

The electorate is said to be heartily sick of the campaign already. This is not surprising, thanks to the BBC's cravenness in giving politicians copious airtime to make idiots of themselves in the cause of "entertainment radio", witness the infantile shouting of Michael Howard and John Cunningham on radio yesterday morning. To a political professional, this does not matter in the slightest. All that matters to Mr Major is that the voters, in getting sick of the election, should be getting more sick of Labour.

This is already an election of Great War proportions, of long steady pounding, of patience, of nerve, of attrition. The winter will be the side that can take the most casualties and throw still more troops and shells into battle. The exhaustion of the fastidious classes, of those with no stomach for the fight, does not matter: winning matters. The Tories would be tactically well-advised to play this one long, testing Net Kinnock's nerve, exposing the weak links in his team, forcing him to expend his best arguments and waste his ammunition. Governments may not have the best tunes, but they have institutional stamina. If Mr Major wants to do himself a favour, he would announce an election on May 7, throw Labour off its stride and settle down for a long hard pound.

## EUROPE WITHOUT FRONTIERS

Where are the boundaries of Europe? This question has become all the talk of Brussels, and is exercising Commission officials returning from the former Soviet Union. For over a millennium the question was superfluous. The Western world was continuous with Christendom. Gradually scholars began to define Europe geographically: the land mass surrounded by sea except in the East, where the Ural mountains formed a notional frontier. As the Russian empire expanded south and east, the Urals ceased to have relevance. Russia — and after it the Soviet Union — was a Eurasian power, straddling the two continents.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union an academic question has suddenly taken on political significance. The European Community is already contemplating eventual membership of several East European countries. How far east should it go? Could it one day admit Russia and Ukraine? And if so, what about other former republics of the Soviet Union such as Kazakhstan, touching on the borders of China, which announced at the weekend its wish to join?

The definition of Europe bears also on other bodies. The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe decided, with little debate, to admit all the former Soviet republics, on the ground that as part of the Soviet Union they were once members. The Strasbourg-based Council of Europe, increasingly seen as the guardian of European values and democracy, has already granted Russia special guest status. Should it stretch definitions to foster European values and parliamentary democracy as far afield as possible?

Frans Andriessen, the EC external affairs commissioner, was terse when asked about Kazakhstan. "It seems difficult to change the map," he said. Under the Treaty of Rome, geography is a first filter, before democracy, human rights and economics come into consideration. But maps can be changed. Asia Minor was never considered "Europe" until Atatürk oriented Turkey north-west instead of south-east. And what about Georgia and

Armenia, south of the Caucasus mountains? They have always been part of Christendom, but only marginally part of Europe.

Definitions matter only if political and economic relations are determined by geography. In security it makes sense to go beyond the "Atlantic to the Urals" and extend CSCE to the Chinese borders. In mapping out political and economic union this makes less sense. Luckily the EC will not have to cross this bridge at least until the next century: even in a second phase of enlargement that may follow the admission of the Scandinavian and Alpine countries, the republics of the former Soviet Union are probably last on the list.

Aid, trade and co-operation do not depend on definitions. The Community is free to aid or trade with any country in the world. It already has co-operation agreements with the Mediterranean littoral, and has negotiated more comprehensive association agreements with Eastern Europe — none of which imply eventual membership. Yesterday EC foreign ministers rejected a new "Marshall plan" for the former Soviet Union — not because of any problems of eligibility, but because they say too many grandiose plans would confuse the work of the International Monetary Fund.

Europe however must not be too literal in defining itself. For centuries it did its best to extend European government, values and culture beyond its geographical domain, and so succeeded that countries such as Australia and New Zealand still have difficulty in thinking of themselves as Pacific. Now it is attempting to raise the drawbridge around the old continent, using old concepts of the unity and heritage of Christendom to discourage applicants to the club from the Muslim east. Europe, legend has it, was herself an immigrant, borne through the sea from Tyre to Crete on the back of a bull. Through her, civilisation passed symbolically from the Levant to the Greeks. Today's Europe should ensure that its own rich benefits are shared with those on its borders, whatever the maps say.

## A BRIDGE NOT FAR ENOUGH

Britain may no longer breed Brunels. But when it comes to failing to transport bridges down motorways, we still lead the world. British engineers complain that they do not receive as much public esteem as other professions. Bright children become doctors or lawyers or architects, or take up lucrative trades such as merchant banking or television news reporting. Engineering, they whinge, is looked down on as brown-collar and greasy-fingered by that universal scapegoat, the British class system.

This is to underestimate the British passion for vicarious engineering, for playing with grown-up Lego. Inside every arts graduate, there is an engineer struggling to get out. He is being exercised and entertained by the efforts to remove a 2,045-ton bridge in one piece between junctions 20 and 21 on the M4. Yesterday there were still tailbacks and angst at Ings in Avon, and crowds watching the bridge that refused to budge.

The bridge is only 25 years old, and a brute rectangle of pre-stressed concrete, but it is deemed incapable of carrying the 40-ton lorries that EC regulations have lined up for it by 1999. The engineers with a £300,000 contract to demolish it decided to cut the bridge loose and transport it down the M4 to a lay-by a mile away, where it could be smashed up at leisure by hydraulic breakers. After only 30 yards one of the transporters sank into the roadside, the bridge started to crack up, and the whole surreal apparatus slewed across the motorway and blocked it.

Engineering experts, quartered at millions of breakfast tables, are now wallowing in the joys of hindsight. Why was the brute not blown up where it stood, and the rubble

carted off by mechanical removers? Houses too close for such a bang? Surely that could be baffled? Why not cut it up in place, or use different jacks and different half-tracks "like any fool could design in his back yard", or send for the sappers with small petards, or just wait for the 40-ton lorries to grind it to powder? Retrospect is the best engineer. But it becomes fun for the back-seat bridge-buster only when it goes wrong.

Building bridges is a British art-form, from London bridge — the reason why the capital is in the south-east of the island — to the Forth Bridge, the painting of which has become a proverb for work that never ends. But breaking bridges is an equally noted British aptitude. A nursery rhyme commemorates the fall of one London Bridge. A desert in Arizona commemorates the demolition of another. The people's poet Laureate, William McGonagall, immortalised the disaster of the railway bridge of the silver Tay; the cutting and bridge at Archway on the northern approaches to London began life as a tunnel designed by engineers that went badly wrong.

In fact British engineers are the best in the world at breaking bridges. This they do in style, transporting bridges wholesale down motorways instead of by methods that might seem simpler to laymen. What they should do now is declare an open competition for armchair engineers, schoolchildren and students, to propose and cost every option for the closure of the M4 bridge. Not the least of the functions of the British engineer is to act as Heath Robinson, to provide entertainment and illumination for the enthusiast, and thus add to the esteem of their profession.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Britain and Australia: fall-out from second world war

From Sir John Leahy

Sir, Not surprisingly, Prime Minister Keating's allegations about Britain's behaviour towards Australia in the second world war (report, February 28) have generated more heat than light. May I, as a former British High Commissioner in Canberra, put the record straight on one point?

I was particularly struck by Mr Keating's repetition of the old canard that Britain would not "give us our troops back to keep ourselves free from Japanese domination". The first time I heard this said was in an Australian television film called *The Last Bastion* in 1984. The High Commission promptly did some research. The facts we unearthed were as follows.

At the beginning of 1942 there were three Australian divisions in the Middle East, the 6th, 7th and 9th. On January 27 Churchill told the House of Commons: "We shall not put any obstacle to the return of the splendid Australian troops who volunteered for special service to defend their own homeland or wherever part of the Pacific theatre may be thought most expedient."

The 7th Division was the first to set sail, bound, with the explicit agreement of the Australian government, for the Netherlands East Indies. By the time it was nearing its destination Singapore had fallen (on February 15) and it was apparent to all that the end could not be long delayed in Java. In these circumstances the British government proposed the diversion of the 7th Division to Burma, where it was hoped its arrival would help to save Rangoon. But Prime Minister John Curtin thought otherwise: on February 17 he informed Churchill that the Australian government wanted the immediate return of the 6th and 7th Divisions to Australia.

Churchill pleaded with Curtin to change his mind and made it clear that every effort would be made to relieve the 7th Division as soon as possible, so that it could return to Australia with the 6th and the 9th: he also got President Roosevelt to add his weight to the request. Curtin refused and that was that. But the legend lives on.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN LEAHY  
(UK High Commissioner to Australia, 1984-8).  
Manor Stables, Bishopstone,  
Seaford, East Sussex.  
February 29.

From Sir Philip Rogers

Sir, I was most unhappy to read the prime minister of Australia's criticism of our country, criticism by the leader of a country, long a friend and staunch ally in many years. Our preparation for the defence of Singapore was erroneously planned on the basis that attack would come from the sea; in the event, the attack came from highly trained and skilful fighters in jungle warfare through

the mainland. We met this attack as best we could and bravely, but there was no shameful abandonment of an ally, rather a fact of war.

I can understand Australia's dismay when we joined the European Common Market, which would inevitably affect its exports to Britain, but this was necessary to maintain our position amongst other world traders — a position which could help us stand by our friends, not least Australia. Concessions, however, were made to meet Australia's problems as far as possible.

I hope that the Australian people will remember us more kindly and not just the instances given by their prime minister. For our part, we British will always remember the way Australia sprang to join us in war to defend justice and words like Gallipoli, linked with gallant courage, will never be forgotten.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP ROGERS,  
Church Close,  
Newick, East Sussex.  
February 29.

From Mr Richard Thirby

Sir, My father was shot by the Japanese during the combined British/Australian attempt to prevent or delay the overrun of the Malayan peninsula.

He was in hospital in Singapore when British troops were ordered to surrender — not just to save themselves but to prevent the Japanese from massacring the entire local population. I have in my possession a wooden cigarette box given to my father by a grateful bunch of Aussies who with him survived four years in various camps along the Thailand railway. It was presented with a note saying "To Bill Thirby — not bad for a bloody poem." It is treasured as a memento and is surely more representative of most Australians' attitude than those of their current whingeing leader.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD THIRBY,  
20 Charles Street,  
Mayfair, W1.  
February 27.

From Mr Peter Thomas

Sir, Australia's geographical isolation from Europe dictates that it is now economically interdependent within a different geo-political sphere. It has been so for some time. Its well-being relies on its ability to thrive within the community of nations bordering the Pacific basin.

These realities dictate that a constitutional connection with the United Kingdom is at best irrelevant and at worst dangerously misleading to a young country fighting for its place in the sun in a community of powerful neighbours. Our desire for this extra dimension of "independence", I would like to think, a most understandable inclination in what is after all a

relatively new nation. It contains, among other things, a deep-seated, democratic motive.

A republican constitution will give Australians a broader and more realistic vision of themselves and their place in the world. For us to ignore this need at this point in our history is unconstructive and demeaning.

I would bet London to a brick that Australia will celebrate its first year as a republic in the year 2002.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER THOMAS,  
47 Southbrook Road,  
Lee, SE12.  
March 1.

From Mr Theo Aronson

Sir, Australians putting their arms around British queens is nothing new. During the second world war, Queen Mary lived at Badminton in Gloucestershire. One day, while visiting Bath, she met a group of Australian soldiers. Boldly, they asked if they could be photographed with her. Queen Mary agreed and as they were all lining up for the photographer, she suddenly felt an arm encircling her waist.

Far from being annoyed, this normally unapproachable old Queen was delighted. "It really was very comical and unexpected at my age", she afterwards reported to her brother, the Earl of Athlone.

Yours sincerely,  
THEO ARONSON,  
North Knoll Cottage,  
15 Bridge Street,  
Frome, Somerset.  
February 28.

From Mr John Green

Sir, In 1917, Henry Lawson, perhaps the greatest of Australia's poets, wrote:

Our own who reek not of a king's  
regalia,  
Tinsel of crowns and courts that  
fume and fret,  
Are fighting for her — fighting for  
Australia —  
And blasphemously hail her "Eng-  
land Yet."

Lawson, who came of Nordic "digger" stock, implied Australia's acceptance of responsibilities which England had assumed in the southern oceans. Whingeing now about Singapore (we did later lose two battleships) and the Common Market (for which most people in the UK have grave reservations, precisely because of the Commonwealth) is hardly worthy of a people into whose hands has passed a torch.

Australia, whose adult culture so many of us love and admire, should surely find politicians who can match the gravity that this entails.

Yours etc.,  
JOHN GREEN,  
The Manor,  
Chedworth, Gloucestershire.  
February 29.

### Assisted places

From the Chairman of the  
Headmasters' Conference

Sir, You say of the assisted-places scheme (leading article, February 28) that it is "a misuse of public money to subsidise a private industry". Once one starts to regard education simply as an "industry", much else follows.

Most civilised countries regard it as something quite different, and, by giving financial support to all schools (including independent) make an important affirmation both about the dignity of education and about the rights of minorities.

The dismissive and cynical tone of your leader is in marked contrast to the urgency with which recently liberated countries in Eastern Europe are looking for new and creative collaboration between public and private sectors. Such collaboration is essential.

These people have experienced for too long the results of the sort of dogmatic isolationism which your leader writes so perceptively underwrites. Yours faithfully,  
D. L. MILROY,  
Chairman,  
Headmasters' Conference,  
Ampleforth College, York.  
February 28.

### Ethics of embryo transfer in cows

From Mr Alan Long

Sir, Today's dairy cow is run like a machine, pregnant nine months of the year and lactating, at times from her reserves, for another nine months; so she is under the concurrent stresses of pregnancy and lactation for six months in the year. She does not last long under the strain, being culled for burgers after three or four years of this exploitation.

Now she is threatened with embryo transfer ("Test tubes give better beef", Life & Times, February 25) and the extra burden of twinning her output of calves, thus intensifying the toll taken of her maternal functions by human milkshakes and beef-eaters. Beef can be produced extensively in single-sucker systems without the rapine behind the milk of human milkmaid.

Embryo transfer, like the "performance enhancing" hormone BST, is just another device to manipulate cattle as no more than milk and meat on legs. The corollaries — as in BSE (mad cow disease) — of turning the cow into a carnivore or even a cannibal should have taught us to treat the animals with respect.

Good wishes,  
ALAN LONG,  
14 Woodland Rise,  
Greenford, Middlesex.  
February 25.

From Mr Michael L. Teale

Sir, As a profession, veterinary surgeons recognise several welfare problems associated with the technique of embryo transfer and are actively involved in dealing with them. The implanting of embryos in such numbers as to produce twins, triplets or quadruplets — in our view, totally unacceptable — one wonders whatever next.

As Mr Hornsby's article pointed out, fewer than four cows in 100 produce twins ordinarily — and thank heavens for that. The veterinary profession has recognised for many years that twins are, on the whole, undesirable. For instance, mortality of one or both offspring is higher than in single births and the effect on the dam is much more stressful and frequently produces postnatal problems.

Over many years various scientists have recommended the production of twins in cattle, showing a lamentable lack of understanding of the problems, particularly on the welfare of both dam and offspring.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL L. TEALE (Trustee),  
British Veterinary Association  
Animal Welfare Foundation,  
7 Mansfield Street, W1.

### Outside Westminster

From Mr David Blunkett, MP for  
Sheffield Brightside (Labour)

Sir, Robin Oakley, in his Political Notebook of February 27, surveys the Opposition benches for governmental experience. His piece, which was concerned only with experience of national government, is significant for what it leaves out. Ideas, and a lasting contribution to the review policy, warrant no mention. Campaigning and effective communication are disregarded. Experience of effectiveness in the detailed legislative stages of major bills is ignored by him.

Perhaps none of these areas of exclusion from consideration should come as any surprise. After all, few parliamentary journalists take much notice of the committee stage of bills going through to the early hours of the morning or, for that matter, significant contributions on the floor of the House outside set-piece debates. Fewer still are interested in ideas or who produces them.

What is really tragic, however, is the way in which Britain stands alone in the contempt with which it treats experience in running government outside Westminster. Few democratic countries could boast a senior political journalist who would set aside a learning experience such as the taking of difficult decisions in running major cities, counties or Scottish regions.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID BLUNKETT,  
House of Commons.

### End of an era

From Mr Andrew Wilski

Sir, The miscreant bureaucrats who have decided to dismiss the Rolls-Royce from the British diplomatic service (report, February 25) may not be aware that it was the drabness of communism, including the drab life of the privileged functionaries, which was one of the chief causes of the recent anti-communist revolutions.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW WILSKI,  
4 Berkeley Road, Mount Sion,  
Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

### Rolling in the aisles?

From Dr J. W. McNuff

Sir, Your report and photograph (February 22) on the ownership of a village pub by a local parish church in Oxfordshire gives a welcome new meaning to the "tied house", and new hope for reviving the fortunes of Anglicanism.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MCNUFF,  
West Barn, Hall Place,  
Seer Green, Beaconsfield,  
Buckinghamshire.

### Kuwait borders dispute

From Mr Richard Schofield

Sir, Christopher Walker's article of February 24, "Dispute looms over new Kuwait border", reaches the convincing conclusion that Iraqi access to the Gulf will continue to be a festering sore in the coming decades, but not necessarily for the right reasons. His account endorses the recently reported statement by Mr Tariq Kazouki, Kuwaiti representative to the United Nations, to the effect that the demarcation of borders will be totally different from those pertaining 60 years ago.

No new boundary is contemplated by the UN demarcation team. They will probably announce a delimitation, if the objections of the Iraqi delegate can be overcome (a big if), in the spring of this year which corresponds very closely to the line which Britain maintained (from 1951) was meant to be introduced by the notoriously vague diplomatic correspondence which had originally fixed the boundary in 1923 and 1932. This is the limit shown in most atlases.

The present confusion has been caused because, for nearly 30 years following the settlement of the 1961 Kuwait crisis, Iraq had extended its administration up to the Arab League line, a track which ran

parallel to but south of the notional international boundary. At their closest point the two limits were 350 metres apart — at their furthest, some two kilometres.

Oil wells were sunk by Iraq directly above this *de facto* territorial limit, while the modern port of Umm Qasr expanded across the notional boundary to the very same Arab League line. Kuwait generally turned a blind eye. Now in 1992, Iraq will be required to abandon all of this infrastructure south of the boundary proper.

United Nations resolutions of 1991 compel the demarcation team to finalise the existing legal boundary as originally defined in 1923 and 1932, and to ignore any temporary *de facto* lines. There is no point now in blaming the demarcation commission for carrying out their mandate. It is not their fault that the settlement of the Kuwait crisis did nothing to solve the perennial problem of Iraqi access to the Gulf.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD SCHOFIELD  
(Deputy Director),  
Geopolitics and International  
Boundaries Research Centre,  
School of Oriental and  
African Studies,  
Thornhaugh Street,  
Russell Square, WC1.  
February 25.

### Routemaster revival

From Mr David Goodenday

Sir, Dare one hope that the reprieve and refurbishment of Routemaster buses (photograph, February 25) indicates belated recognition of the limitations of one-man buses?

In crowded streets the longer stopping times add significantly to traffic congestion, with other vehicles unable to pass (with consequent accident-causing aggravation). Passenger and bus journeys take longer, making any overall economy for the bus operators questionable.

This seems a case where supposed improved productivity has proved illusory and damaging.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GOODENDAY,  
Bunkers Dip,  
Newville Drive, N2.  
February 26.

Business letters, page 21

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

### Mortgage rescue

From the Chairman of the  
Catholic Building Society

Sir, In rejecting Councillor Margaret Moran's call for government intervention in mortgage rescue schemes, Mr Mark Bollet (letter, February 22) rightly stresses the importance of mortgage income support for homeowners being paid directly to lenders. In return for this the major building societies pledged that they would hold back from possession.

Many borrowers are however still being deprived of any mortgage income support in the 16 weeks following unemployment. Then the eventual payment is only 50 per cent of the interest due in the first 16 weeks. In contrast, tenants are given full housing benefit support from the date of unemployment, as Mr Bollet acknowledges.

It was always astonishing that this act of government discrimination was introduced when unemployment was at its highest in 1980s peak of 3.1 million in January 1987. In that year there were only 26,390 building society possessions. Now that un-

employment is rising inexorably to a similar figure and possessions have risen three-fold, the time has surely come to abolish the "16-week rule" which is so psychologically damaging to newly unemployed homeowners.

Everyone working in building societies is striving to avoid possessions and resulting homelessness, whether by mortgage rescue schemes or otherwise. Everyone seeks the return of stable property values with a natural level of new purchasers. But who can risk buying their home while prices are falling and jobs are being lost in thousands each month in many areas of the United Kingdom?

The higher risk of unemployment causing immediate arrears is paralysing many who need to buy. Equality of support to tenants and homeowners becoming unemployed should be restored in the forthcoming Budget.

I am, yours faithfully,  
NONA BYRNE, Chairman,  
Catholic Building Society,  
7 Strutton Ground,  
Westminster, SW1.  
February 27.











**BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT**

## Scaling fashion heights

"You can get quite big cod ... tuna would also be good as it is quite a huge fish," said Miss Duffy.

The election timetable means talks will be possible for only four days next week before they are wound up for the duration of the campaign. Unionist and nationalists defended the agreement, saying it would minimise any damage caused by campaign excesses to the conciliatory political atmosphere.

was that if one was going to be knocked down by a bus the best place would be near Guy's. The lunch was to launch an illustrated brochure of recipes, funded by the Friends of Guy's Hospital, which will be given to patients when they arrive. Gary McKenna, general manager of catering, said that three questionnaires had been circulated among patients since the menus were introduced four months ago. "We are well pleased with the feedback," he said. "Waste has been reduced, nutritional standards improved and the food is not costing us a penny more."

The World Health Organisation defines as rabies-free any country that has had no indigenously-generated cases for two years. All EC countries except Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg satisfy that criterion.

**MATTHEW PARRIS**

Downing Street responded by saying that Conservative governments over 13 years had brought down the standard rate of tax from 33p to 25p and that there had only been three years in that period without a public borrowing requirement. Officials argue that Britain's need for increased borrowing is a "cy-

**ACROSS**

- 1 Two men upset Claud, the Round  
Tabler (8.2.3).
- 9 It identifies the characters in  
pencil team (9).
- 10 Slowly take article out of the shed  
(4).
- 11 Junior for Samson (5).
- 12 Composer canonized in Corn-  
wall (4).
- 13 Outstanding stallion (4).
- 15 Comes to knot of agreement by  
rumour (7).
- 17 Give the sufficient weight to  
provide capital (7).
- 18 Extremely cold, having had no  
food (7).
- 20 How many men on the coffin in  
1 d'n's song? (7).
- 21 Hit out first to last to create  
a style (5).
- 22 Heroic tale originally enacted  
proudly in Colchis (4).

### Solution to Puzzle No 18.855

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | U | S | Y | B | O | D | Y | M | A | N | T | E | L |
| E | N | A | I | D | E | R | E | C | E | P | T | A | N |
| N | E | E | R | E | C | E | P | T | A | N | C | E |   |
| J | L | E | A | C | C | E | R | L | L | C | E |   |   |
| A | L | L | O | A | N | C | E | N | S | E |   |   |   |
| M | O | D | H | E | M | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| T | H | E | M | E | S | T | R | E | S | S | E | D |   |

23 Not skilled in the use of paint  
constituents (5).  
24 When caught in retreat, general  
makes a stand (5).  
27 He conducted opera in two  
come-backs (9).  
28 Producing a hybrid for cultivation  
on stake (5-8).

**DOWN**

1 Yearn to have a man with money,  
albeit a pirate (4,4,6).  
2 Runyon remains in "The Wander-  
er" (5).  
3 Show three-quarters of 12 to be  
significant (10).  
4 Work on a built-up area's density  
(7).  
5 River with a destructive or-  
ganism - it's most mysterious (7).  
6 "Now folds the - all her sweet-  
ness" (7) (Tennyson) (4).

- 8 Wastrel finds virtue is not rewarded (4,3,7).
- 14 Wildly flop: pirate for being licentious (10).
- 16 Pace with gin as a cocktail and pain-killer (9).
- 19 When one is absent, French legislators become delegates (7).
- 20 See flyer about an employer in Lens (7).
- 24 A politician has one defence (5).
- 25 Singer takes part in a musical tonight (6).

Concise Crossword, page 1.  
Life & Times section

| MMDDAY | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 |
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|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

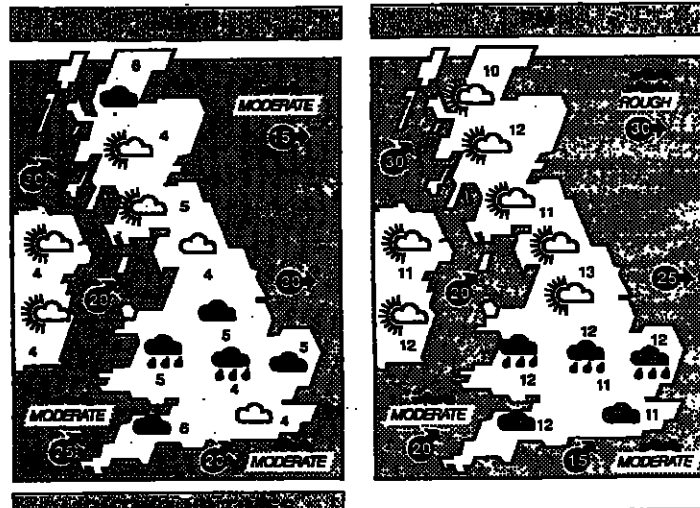
|              | Sun  | Rain | Max |             |
|--------------|------|------|-----|-------------|
|              | in   | in   | C   |             |
| Anglesey     | 0.5  | 0.0  | 50  | mini shower |
| Aberdeen     | 2.4  | 0.07 | 11  | 52 shower   |
| Belfast      | 2.5  | 0.1  | 10  | 48 shower   |
| Birmingham   | 0.5  | 0.1  | 50  | 50 rain     |
| Bognor Regis | -    | 0.17 | 8   | 46 rain     |
| Bournemouth  | -    | 0.1  | 48  | 48 rain     |
| Bournemouth  | -    | 0.25 | 10  | 50 rain     |
| Buxton       | -    | 0.74 | 8   | 46 rain     |
| Cardiff      | 0.7  | 0.1  | 48  | 48 rain     |
| Cromer       | -    | 0.03 | 10  | 50 rain     |
| Douglas      | 0.4  | 0.28 | 10  | 50 shower   |
| Edinburgh    | 2.8  | 0.02 | 11  | 52 rain     |
| Exeter       | 2.6  | 0.4  | 11  | 52 rain     |
| Exeter       | 2.6  | 0.4  | 11  | 52 rain     |
| Falmouth     | -    | 0.03 | 11  | 52 rain     |
| Falmouth     | -    | 0.1  | 48  | cloudy      |
| Glasgow      | 1.1  | 0.5  | 9   | 46 shower   |
| Glasgow      | -    | 0.08 | 10  | 50 rain     |
| Grimsby      | 2.0  | 0.28 | 12  | 50 rain     |
| Lincoln      | -    | 0.1  | 48  | 48 rain     |
| Liverpool    | 0.9  | 0.11 | 8   | 46 shower   |
| Liverpool    | -    | 0.15 | 9   | 46 rain     |
| London       | -    | 0.1  | 48  | 48 rain     |
| London       | -    | 0.06 | 10  | 50 rain     |
| Lewesport    | 0.5  | 0.7  | 10  | 50 rain     |
| Manchester   | 1.1  | 0.09 | 11  | 52 rain     |
| Manchester   | 1.1  | 0.09 | 11  | 52 rain     |
| Newcastle    | 0.1  | 0.23 | 10  | 50 rain     |
| Nottingham   | -    | 0.28 | 9   | 46 rain     |
| Nottingham   | 3.2  | 0.28 | 9   | 46 rain     |
| Plymouth     | 1.2  | 0.43 | 10  | 50 rain     |
| Praskevik    | 1.4  | 0.1  | 48  | 48 rain     |
| Praskevik    | -    | 0.19 | 48  | 48 rain     |
| Scarborough  | -    | 0.02 | 9   | 46          |
| Scilly Isles | 4.5  | 0.1  | 52  | 52 shower   |
| Southampton  | -    | 0.52 | 9   | 46 rain     |
| Southampton  | -    | 0.15 | 9   | 46 rain     |
| Southampton  | -    | 0.15 | 9   | 46 rain     |
| Torquay      | 0.3  | 0.25 | 11  | 52 rain     |
| Torquay      | 0.3  | 0.25 | 11  | 52 cloudy   |
| Torquay      | 0.3  | 0.25 | 11  | 52 rain     |
| Torquay      | 0.2  | 0.17 | 11  | 52 rain     |
| Wick         | 1.6  | 0.8  | 10  | 50 rain     |
| Worthing     | 0.57 | 9    | 46  |             |

These are Sunday's figures

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Greater London                                  | 701 |
| Greater Manchester                              | 702 |
| Derbyshire & Leicestershire                     | 703 |
| Devon & Cornwall                                | 704 |
| Wales, Gloucestershire & Somerset               | 705 |
| Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire & Hertfordshire   | 706 |
| Bedfordshire & Essex                            | 707 |
| Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire & Lincolnshire | 708 |
| West Midlands & Staffordshire                   | 709 |
| Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire      | 710 |
| Central Midlands                                | 711 |
| East Midlands                                   | 712 |
| Lincoln & Humberside                            | 713 |
| East & West Yorkshire                           | 714 |
| West Yorkshire & Cheshire                       | 715 |
| N.W. England                                    | 716 |
| Yorkshire & the Fens                            | 717 |
| N.E. England                                    | 718 |
| Cumbria & Lancashire                            | 719 |
| S.W. Scotland                                   | 720 |
| Central Scotland                                | 721 |
| Edinburgh, Lothian & Borders                    | 722 |
| E. Central Scotland                             | 723 |
| Glasgow & E. Highlands                          | 724 |
| W. Scotland                                     | 725 |
| Highland, Orkney & Shetland                     | 726 |

N Ireland..... 72  
Weathercall is charged at 36p per  
minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute  
at all other times.



London 5.45 pm to 6.30 am  
 Bristol 5.55 pm to 5.40 am  
 Edinburgh 5.52 pm to 6.55 am  
 Manchester 5.51 pm to 6.45 am

**Sun rises:**  
 5.41 am

**Moon rises:**  
 5.59 am

**Sun sets:**  
 5.46 pm

**Moon sets:**  
 4.59 pm

**Temperatures at midday yesterday:** c, cloud; t, rain; r, rain; s, sun.

|            | C  | F  |              | C  | F  |
|------------|----|----|--------------|----|----|
| Belfast    | 6  | 43 | Guernsey     | 10 | 50 |
| Birmingham | 8  | 46 | J. Inverness | 8  | 46 |
| Bristol    | 9  | 48 | London       | 10 | 50 |
| Cardiff    | 9  | 48 | Manchester   | 9  | 48 |
| Edinburgh  | 10 | 50 | M. Inverness | 7  | 45 |
| Glasgow    | 6  | 43 | Newcastle    | 7  | 45 |
|            | 6  | 43 | R. Inverness | 7  | 45 |

NEW NIGHT SCHEDULE

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 6pm, 8C (46F); min 6pm to 6am, 1C (34F). Rain: 24hr

to April, 0.15 in. Sun: 24 in to April, 0.1 in.

| TODAY         | AM   | HT  | PM   | HT  | TODAY     | AM    | HT  | PM    | HT  |
|---------------|------|-----|------|-----|-----------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| London Bridge | 1.12 | 8.8 | 1.37 | 8.7 | Liverpool | 10.45 | 8.9 | 11.05 | 8.8 |

|          |       |     |       |     |               |       |     |       |    |
|----------|-------|-----|-------|-----|---------------|-------|-----|-------|----|
| Aberdeen | 12.48 | 3.9 | 12.48 | 4.0 | Lowestoft     | 8.28  | 2.2 | 0.03  | 2. |
| Ayr      | 10.21 | 3.2 | 10.52 | 3.1 | Margate       | 11.51 | 4.3 | 11.46 | 4. |
| Belfast  | 10.21 | 3.2 | 10.52 | 3.1 | Milford Haven | 5.40  | 6.5 | 5.58  | 6. |

|           |      |      |      |      |         |      |     |      |     |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|---------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Cardiff   | 8.27 | 11.5 | 6.47 | 11.4 | Newquay | 4.31 | 6.6 | 4.49 | 8.1 |
| Devonport | 6.10 | 5.2  | 5.36 | 5.1  | Oban    | 5.23 | 3.8 | 5.38 | 3.1 |

|            |       |     |       |     |            |       |     |       |     |
|------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Burton     | 10.41 | 5.0 | 16.62 | 4.8 | Penzance   | 4.08  | 5.3 | 4.33  | 5.1 |
| Falmouth   | 4.40  | 5.0 | 5.06  | 4.9 | Portland   | 6.20  | 2.0 | 6.48  | 1.4 |
| Glasgow    | 12.24 | 4.1 | 12.37 | 4.5 | Portsmouth | 10.40 | 4.3 | 11.06 | 4.0 |
| Manchester | 11.39 | 3.7 | 11.50 | 3.3 |            |       |     |       |     |

|          |       |     |       |     |              |       |     |       |     |
|----------|-------|-----|-------|-----|--------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Harwich  | 11.29 | 3.7 | 11.29 | 3.7 | Sharnhead    | 10.44 | 5.8 | 11.07 | 5.8 |
| Holyhead | 9.50  | 8.3 | 10.12 | 5.1 | Southernport | 10.26 | 4.2 | 10.68 | 4.2 |
| Hull     | 6.57  | 6.7 | 5.58  | 7.2 | Swansea      | 5.48  | 0.1 | 8.05  | 0.1 |

|             |      |     |      |     |                |       |     |       |     |
|-------------|------|-----|------|-----|----------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Irishcombe  | 5.27 | 8.8 | 8.44 | 8.5 | Swansea        | 8.40  | 3.1 | 8.00  | 8.0 |
| King's Lynn | 6.09 | 5.9 | 6.06 | 6.2 | Tees           | 3.17  | 4.7 | 3.16  | 6.0 |
| Leith       | 2.05 | 5.0 | 2.05 | 5.1 | Wilton-on-Avye | 11.23 | 3.9 | 11.32 | 3.0 |

Tide in metres: 1m-3.2006t.

1024

Warm front Cold front

103.2 HIGH

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# Anyone who had a chart



As leading record companies seek to control even more of the music business, independent producers fear for their continued existence. David Toop reports

What is independent music? Surely it isn't Kylie Minogue? Yet she releases her pop singles on a successful independent label. Perhaps, then, it is Nirvana and Manic Street Preachers, the indie-image rock bands which sign to multi-national corporations? Is it a techno-underground of faceless computer buffoons, or is it bands such as Primal Scream and The KLF, both of them in the commercial ascendant, difficult to categorise and resolute in their detachment from major companies and distributors?

The answer is, of course, that all is confusion at present. There is no clear definition of alternative music. Nothe most auspicious time for the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) to launch a plan to compile and publish a new genre-based chart for alternative music. When the first Elvis Presley single was released on Sun Records, 38 years ago, this question of independence would have been easier to answer. Independence in the record business was the prerogative of tiny companies whose growth and influence stemmed from hard work. Innovation and powerful music rather than the financial backing of a corporation. The definition continued to be workable two decades later, during the do-it-yourself record boom that followed punk, or in the early days of rap when small rhythm 'n' blues companies were resurrected to exploit this new "street" music.

But in the Nineties this picture is

being transformed out of all recognition. In his expose of corruption within the music business, *Hit Men*, Frederic Dannen wrote that, "for nearly a decade, the notion of the independent label had been largely a myth". Instead, he described the larger, once independent companies such as Island, Virgin, Chrysalis and A&M as "dependent".

Derek Green, managing director of China Records, strongly disputes this view. "I am 100 per cent privately owned, financed out of my back pocket," he says. "If I don't sell records in the next quarter, I go out of business." His feelings are so strong that he recently resigned his seat on the BPI council.

His resignation was a response to the BPI council's plans for the alternative music chart. This would enable major label artists who fit the mysterious criteria for being alternative to join and perhaps dominate a chart which has previously excluded them. The suspicion of Green and a number of other record company and distribution directors is that the major labels sensed the growing importance of this alternative sector. Many bands with contracts which link them to the big companies wished to appear in an independent chart for the sake of their credibility. Major labels would like to put them there.

At present, a number of specialist sales charts reflect specific music markets such as dance, heavy metal, classical and reggae. These supplement the main singles and album charts, serving as



market research and promotional tools for record companies, an index of likely prospects for overseas companies on the lookout for talent and, arguably, a consumer's guide to average taste. Although music fans may accept the charts as a mildly diverting part of the furniture, for the record business and media they are all about marketing and money.

So-called indie music is currently represented at the official level by a distributors' chart. Published in *Music Week*, this reflects the independence of the distributor rather than a style of music or political attitude. Blues veteran John Lee Hooker might rub shoulders with The Levellers, a band renowned for its passionate commitment to the ethos of artistic



Independent? Primal Scream (top left), Manic Street Preachers (above) and Kylie Minogue (left)

and indeed business independence. The criteria for compiling this chart are, as Green admits, "lousy", yet he objects to the proposed alternative. "In this case, I felt the council wasn't well placed to consider the issue in terms of how this hurts the very small record companies that are privately owned and self-financed. I'm particularly referring to the small company, the young guy today who's starting a record company out of his garage. One of the nice things about the music industry is that sometimes it's an industry of dreams."

Popular music can convert dreams into cash, but it can also turn them into disillusionment. One dream which has remained vivid since the mid-Sixties is the Utopian ideal of an alternative sector in which the methods and aspirations of corporate culture are rejected. But between The Clash signing with CBS records and Manic Street Preachers signing with the Japanese-owned incarnation of the same corporation, a great deal of theorising and hand-wringing has done little to alter one of the basic tenets of rock: most musicians will sign a contract with anyone if the signature

is likely to advance their cause. Independence is an emotive issue. A spokesman for the BPI, Jeremy Silver, agrees that this is a significant debate. "When people talked about indie music," he says, "they knew what they meant. Without sounding too sarcastic about it, people meant jangly guitar music played by people all dressed in black, singing in a monotone about the apocalypse. We all knew where we were." Now we have Kylie singing "Give Me Just a Little More Time" and The KLF asking "What Time Is Love?", both acts more independent in the business sense than indie-style heroes such as Nirvana.

Recognising that the mainstream music business is in back-slapping mode, The KLF staged a provocative performance at the recent Brits 1992 awards show. Their aggressive tactics, which included band members firing blanks at the audience, were obviously intended to upset the party. Finally, though amusing some, they achieved little more than to drive Sir George Solti from his seat. Yet The KLF have raised a hackles, perhaps because as weird

iconoclasts who consistently top the charts they are viewed with a mixture of distaste and jealousy. Will The KLF appear in the alternative chart? Their music may be restricted to the dance chart. Whoever eventually features, the new list will be compiled by an organisation called the Chart Information Network. Its chief executive, Adrian Wisreith, is overseeing a committee of researchers compiling an experimental six-week test run for the alternative chart. "I'm not a musicologist," he admits, while classifying the sort of music we are discussing as "cutting edge or left-field".

So how can a multi-national corporation be left-field and alternative? Although he refused to be quoted by name, one managing director of a large company was contemptuous of the BPI's approach. "It's insoluble," he said. "Some of these guys forget where they came from," he added, referring to major record company directors who have forgotten their roots as music fans. Amnesia about the past may not be the industry's greatest problem. The larger confusion seems to be about where the music business is going.

## ARTS BRIEF

### Almost unison

SOMEBODY had to do it. This Saturday's Festival Hall concert by the Royal Choral Society features composers from all 12 European Community countries — and the ambassadors from most of them are turning up to hear this musical *soirée sans frontières*. Much searching through publishers' catalogues must have gone on to find representative composers from the Netherlands (the little known Lex van Delden) and Luxembourg (the even less known Pierre Drauth). When it came to Portugal, however, the singers admitted defeat: they will perform the Portuguese national anthem.

### Debate deadline

A PUBLIC debate in London this week will give critics of the American historian Francis Fukuyama a chance to challenge his view that the current world-wide triumph of democracy and the free market is the last thing that will ever happen to political history. "The End of History" debate will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm on Thursday. The chairman will be Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*. Tickets for the debate cost £10 (£5 for students) and can be purchased at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1 (071-580 3243), or by fax on 071-580 7680.

### Wood work

THE new Henry Wood Room, inaugurated last week at the Royal Academy of Music, certainly offers some new insights into the life of "Old Timber", the conductor who founded the Proms almost a century ago. Some of his (quite impressive) paintings hang on the walls, and an exhibition case contains a selection of rare early records from Wood's bequest to the Academy, recently unearthed and identified. They include unissued test pressings of Wood accompanying his first wife, the soprano Princess Olga Orlova, in 1908-9, and a later disc of Wood in orchestral rehearsal. Most intriguingly, there is a unique record of Wood singing: he gives splendidly exaggerated, caricature-like performances of Schumann's "The Lotus Flower" and Haydn's "To Anthea".

### Last chance . . .

COVENT Garden's *Don Giovanni* should probably be seen, and certainly be heard: Bernard Haitink conducts a performance of demonic drive, yet one alive to tiny nuances and details. His cast, too, are in thrilling voice. But Johannes Schaal's staging is chilly in spirit and black in colour. Last performance is at the Royal Opera House tonight (071-240 1066).

## TELEVISION

### Money is not the answer

come, Dr Hassard rhapsodised, the Alpha detector (a part of the Geneva experiments) would be remembered as part of our cultural history. Well, maybe.

The underlying thesis was that of Save British Science. If only there was enough money to keep everybody happy . . . but there isn't. The case was well made, and it is impossible not to feel angry at the closure of the Nuclear Structure Facility at Daresbury, a modest expense by comparison with Geneva, but slaughtered on the altar of economy.

But are the scientists just another interest group clamouring for gravy? The growth of science, and its increasing cost, means that hard choices will always have to be made. Relatively more successful countries will be able to spend more than we; high spending on pure science is more a

consequence of wealth than a cause of it.

And what of Japan, which has so far avoided becoming embroiled in particle physics, in spite of American entreaties to provide a billion dollars or so to support the proposed superconducting supercollider? Are the Japanese culturally impoverished as a result? They certainly do not seem to be financially poorer for their concentration on practical matters.

Programmes like last night's leave too many questions unanswered. The scientists prefer the focus as narrow as possible, to argue the case on their own ground. Seen in the wider context, however, science in Britain has always been overvalued in comparison with engineering, technology and industrial design.

Heads were shaken sadly last night over Mrs Thatcher, who was trained as a scientist but turned out a terrible disappointment to Save British Science. They had forgotten that Mrs Thatcher was also a grocer's daughter and her subject was chemistry, the most practical of the sciences. She spoke with the voices of Alderman Roberts and Professor Baldwin, a powerful combination. Scientists may get a better hearing from Mr Major, who looks a softer touch.

NIGEL HAWKES

## RADIO

### Another chance to miss

even the most random dipper-in. Some repeats give you the chance not merely to catch up with something you missed first time around, but to enjoy moments of magic all over again. Take *Face the Facts* (Radio 4, Thursday evening, repeated Friday morning). In the last of the current series, John Waite listed the politicians who, as Young Turks, were in favour of a freedom of information act, but who, once in government, suddenly concluded that the public do not know what is good for them — or rather, what they do not know will not harm them.

One who refused the oath of *omertà* is Tony Benn, who found a way around the rule which is supposed to keep all cabinet

papers away from public gaze for 30 years. Papers, yes, tape-recordings, no — there not having been such things when the 30-year rule was devised. At the end of every day of busy secret decision-making, Benn would go home and grass into his tape recorder.

So, on Thursday and again on Friday, you could hear him, snuffily with cold, calmly blowing the whistle on Jim Callaghan's and the rest of the cabinet on the day in 1978 that they decided to block the freedom of information bill which had formed a very public part of their own election manifesto.

This was a piece of information I would like to see freed more often in the run-up to the next election, whenever the present government sees fit to let us into the secret of its date. On the other hand, it is amazing we have not been told already — given that, according to *Face the Facts*, both Norman Lamont and Kenneth Baker were signatories to freedom of information petitions in their early days in the Commons. But that, of course, was before they had secrets of their own to protect.

PATRICK STODDART

## Double dreamer takes flight

### INTERVIEW

Sandi Toksvig, partnering Mike McShane in a West End play and a new television series both opening this week, talks to Heather Neill

Sandi Toksvig is five foot tall. Mike McShane may well measure five foot around the middle. They make a perfect comic partnership and not just because of this startling physical contrast. They met on screen in *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, Channel 4's improvisational game show. Toksvig says: "There was instant rapport. It's like playing tennis with someone whose style matches yours. You lob the ball and it comes effortlessly back."

This week the Toksvig/McShane partnership may be seen in action on stage in a comic version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Pocket Dream*, and on Thursday evening in the first of a new television series, *The Big One*. Both are by Toksvig and her writing partner Elly Brewer. *The Big One*, as Toksvig sums it up, is "about two social misfits talking, not realising that the person they should fall in love with is sitting next to them. The best television comedy is really people just talking to each other."

*The Pocket Dream*, which had a sell-out run and a recent three-week revival at Nottingham Playhouse, is not to put it mildly, about people just talking. An ambitious touring company, The Henry Irving Strolling Players Memorial Theatre, finds itself reduced to two, Simon Beaumont and Phyllida, the leading lady, after the rest of the cast have absconded to the pub to escape Phyllida's helpful tips on acting. Phyllida is played by actress Louisa Rix, "our one proper turn" as Toksvig puts it. Four others are pressed into service: Jo, the stage manager (played by Toksvig); Felix, the fraudulent front-of-house manager (McShane); Dave, a technician; and Tom, Phyllida's athletic admirer.

There is also a complete set of



Sandi Toksvig: graduate of Cambridge and the Comedy Store

rag, tag and bobtail fairies, definitely not from the sugar and smarm school of stage kiddies. What ensues is a mixture of broad comedy as the amateurs tackle Shakespeare, doubling frantically and allowing plenty of backstage jealousies and sexual rivalries to creep into their acting, and a residue of genuine *Dream* magic.

The project began when Toksvig and friends from the Comedy Store (a London club, the origin of *Whose Line?*) went to see a friend in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Nottingham Playhouse, where Toksvig's Cambridge contemporary, Pip Broughton, is artistic director. They planned an improvisation session afterwards; there were 700 people waiting to get in. Broughton and Toksvig began to think about a play for this different audience, more accustomed to cabaret and television than to straight theatre.

If Toksvig were not so ebullient,

so obviously dedicated to giving everyone in the audience a good time, you might almost think her motives bordered on the earnest. "The first thing was to get a new audience in the theatre. If people go away afterwards and read the *Dream* that's fab." (Fab is a favourite word). The Nottingham company did indeed receive letters from new Shakespeare enthusiasts and they did attract first-time theatregoers. One young man was overheard preparing his girlfriend thus: "When it starts, those curtains will open and there will be real people."

"There's always a chance", says Toksvig, "that there will be someone in the audience for whom this will be their only visit to the theatre, ever. So we put in a bit of everything: farce, drama, audience participation, a big showbiz number and poetry."

There are, in fact, as the play proceeds, longer and longer sections of Shakespeare. "We began with a 12-page version of the play,

reduced to plot for us by Glen Walford. Then gradually we put favourite bits back and built it up from there. It was fendishly complicated. There were charts all over the wall, different colours for Shakespeare, the modern bits and where they blend, and graphs for each character. It was like a military plan. Elly is very methodical, very organised, keen on structure. I'm more likely to say 'why don't we have a trapeze artist at this stage?'

She may have regretted that idea. Trussed up in a harness for most of the play, she swoops about, colliding with the scenery and diving for the stage as Puck. She also plays Hermia, Snout and Wall as well as the organising Jo. There are a few opportunities for ad-libbing, but, much of the time, deviation from a carefully choreographed stage plan would be downright dangerous.

Preview audiences are responding well, but Toksvig cannot conceal any joy about the critical response. She mentions . . . reviewer . . . summed up her part in the production with "Sandi Toksvig makes a dumpy Hermia."

"There is a lot of coarse acting in the first two or three scenes," she says, "then we work on the premise that the play's magic affects the actors." Books are tossed aside and there are definite no-joke areas such as the "I know a bank" speech by Oberon.

Oberon is played by McShane, who is an old Shakespeare hand. "I was with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival for a couple of years, with Annette Bening actually." He is not, he claims, a comedian — "I'm miserable at telling jokes" — but he enjoys his comic partnership with Toksvig, relishing with her, "the well-constructed gag," and enthusing about the mixture of "sweet poetry and wild knockabout" to be found in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The last speech of the play, "If we shadows have offended," Shakespeare's "apology", is left untouched. As Toksvig says: "You can't get writing better than that. It's our apology too. In fact, I think this mixture of broad cabaret style and poetry must be a bit like going to the Globe. I adore it when people join in. It's fab."

● *The Pocket Dream* opens at the Albany Theatre, (071-567 1115) tomorrow and *The Big One* is on Channel 4 on Thursday at 8.30pm.



# When baby makes three

When parents already have two school age children heading for independence, why and how do they decide to have another child? Jane Bidder reports

When Alison Greenwood became pregnant with her third child, six years after the birth of her last, a friend reacted to the news with the words "Oh damn". "She had had a similar gap and knew how tough it could be," says 40-year-old Mrs Greenwood, from Hertfordshire, who, after having two children, had resumed her teaching career and was finally enjoying "me" time again. But she had not reckoned on the biological clock inside her. "I began yearning for a third child, particularly as I was nearly 40 and knew it was now or never. My husband would have been quite happy with two, but I couldn't get babies out of my mind. I just had to have a little girl called Dora."

Nine months later, Mrs Greenwood produced a hefty nine-pound baby boy called George, now nearly two. His family is thrilled. "It's wonderful to have another baby around the house," says his mother. "He's brought us more fun and laughter than I could ever have imagined. We were beginning to be a very serious family, but George's antics have us in stitches. The other day, I caught him scrubbing the television with the too brush which he had pinched from the downstairs cloakroom."

Mrs Greenwood is not alone in that burning desire to have a third child, within the same marriage, several years after producing the standard two children. In 1989, 15 per cent of women giving birth already had two children compared with 14 per cent the year before. "Many women whose children are well into school age experience this 'now or never' dilemma of whether to increase their families or not," agrees Dr Maria Callias, lecturer in clinical psychology at the London Institute of Psychiatry. "But the reality of a third baby can be a sharp shock. You've just started being a couple again as the children grow older and suddenly you're back to the beginning."

In fact, adds Dr Callias, a third child can be a recipe for disaster if one partner does not want it. "Not only can it lead to marital breakdowns, but it can also be tough on adolescents within the family. A teenager can be very annoyed by a baby in the way. On the other hand, a teenager can benefit through learning about young children, and you don't always get that sibling rivalry because an older child understands the needs of younger children better than a tiny tot presented with a baby."

Indeed, Mrs Greenwood's elder son adores his brother. "I used to

worry that George would disrupt his life, particularly if Andrew had friends to stay overnight. But his chums adore the novelty." Amy, who is six, is not as entranced by the new arrival, possibly because she is closer in age. "She's not as sensible as Andrew. I recently found her teaching George to do handstands."

The inevitable social conflict of taking a rowdy toddler to a school concert is also taking its toll. The only answer, say the Greenwoods, is to split up at weekends with Charles, a scientist, taking the older children swimming or skating while his wife stays at home. "It's not ideal but there isn't any option," she adds. "But I'm training George to fit in. This summer, we want to go on a rambling holiday so every day, George and I go for a walk in the nearby woods as practice."

Mr Greenwood, though tired, is also pleased he finally took the plunge, although he has had to accept a different lifestyle. His wife confesses: "I no longer try to be superwoman and I've given up having dinner parties."

Like the Greenwoods, Julia and Simon Goodwin, who live in Sussex, had a baby six years after the youngest of their two other children were born. For them, William's arrival came just in time. "Any later and the other two would have been like mini-adults. A lot of friends are thinking about whether to have a third, which she considers to be 'stepping outside the norm'."

This also paves the way for the "middle child syndrome". Although neither nine-year-old Anna nor seven-year-old Oliver are jealous of the baby, Mrs Goodwin notes that he has increased the rivalry between them because they are competing for her time. "My daughter is extremely maternal with William. She'll get to his cot in the morning and would give him breakfast if I wasn't there first. Oliver isn't quite so paternal. If his brother stands in front of the television, he'll pick him up and dump him in the kitchen."

Mrs Goodwin says that dealing with a baby again after so long is "an odd feeling — as though I've stepped back in time. And sometimes, when both children are out at a weekend party, I get the guilty thought that if we didn't have William, I could be doing something for myself."

Nevertheless, William's happy nature (which often goes with a third child because he has to fit in) more than compensates for the extra stress of having three children, says Mrs Goodwin. "I've also



Happy families: Simon and Julia Goodwin with (from left) Oliver, William — their youngest child by six years — and Anna

learned to give myself more space — I'm still working three days a week and somehow I fit in an aerobics class too."

Deciding whether to have a third is harder if you have a handicapped child like Chris and Rose Bartlett-Howard from Buckinghamshire. Their seven-year-old daughter Lauren has cerebral palsy (although her ten-year-old brother Jamie is perfectly normal) and 38-year-old Mrs Bartlett-Howard is expecting another baby in June. "Friends tell me I'm brave, but Lauren's paediatrician actually said it would be good for

her," she says. "Because she won't be the baby any more, it might help her to become more independent."

Mrs Bartlett-Howard's urge to have a baby came when Lauren had gone to school. "Suddenly I was left with an empty house all day. Some people might say that's a bad reason for having another child, but I desperately needed something to fill my heart and not just my arms."

The Bartlett-Howards do not envisage having a fourth child.

But even the best-laid plans can go astray, as Paula and David May, from Nailsworth in Gloucestershire, discovered. Mrs May, aged 33, felt she wanted a baby when her oldest children (Tanya, now 15, and Connor, 13) were well into primary school. "You forget the hard times and a baby suddenly seems incredibly attractive. We also had Tanya when I was only 17, while many of my friends got pregnant when she reached seven. That got us both broody again."

The result was Bennett, now seven, followed by Edward, six, who was "a total accident". Al-

though it is all great fun, says Mrs Bennett, it is also chaotic when it comes to juggling youth clubs, parties and band practices. "Not surprisingly, Mrs May, who runs a bacon shop with her husband, has little time left for herself."

The Mays are not alone in assuming their third child would be the last. Friends with two children who agonised over having one more finally went ahead and ended up — without the use of fertility drugs — with quadruplets. With scare stories like that, who needs contraception?

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## Supplementary benefits

The educational video business is set to take off as parents who are concerned about school standards turn to teachers such as Moustache the Cat. Lee Rodwell reports

Take a generation of children who can use video controls long before they can read. Add a generation of parents concerned about standards in schools. What have you got? A burgeoning business in educational videos. Last week saw the launch of *Bonjour Les Amis*, the latest in a range of children's videos produced by Wonderland Entertainment. The tapes aim to provide a "gentle introduction to the French language" through animated stories featuring Moustache the Cat. Each costs £8.99.

Peter Andrew, the marketing director, is confident that sales will be good. "We commissioned a Gallup poll which showed us that although more than two-thirds of children watched some kind of video on an average day, only 51 per cent of parents think children's videos are sufficiently responsible, and only 52 per cent that they are sufficiently educational," he says. "At the same time, a great many parents were worried about the education system, and wanted to teach their children at home. But they need teaching aids — and that's why there has been such a growth in educational books. Videos will be the next thing parents will turn to."

Julia McKechnie, the product manager for children's videos at WH Smith, predicts that its educational range will grow rapidly over the next five years. "Parents are anxious to expand their role as teachers, and video suppliers are becoming aware of the gap in the market. Since

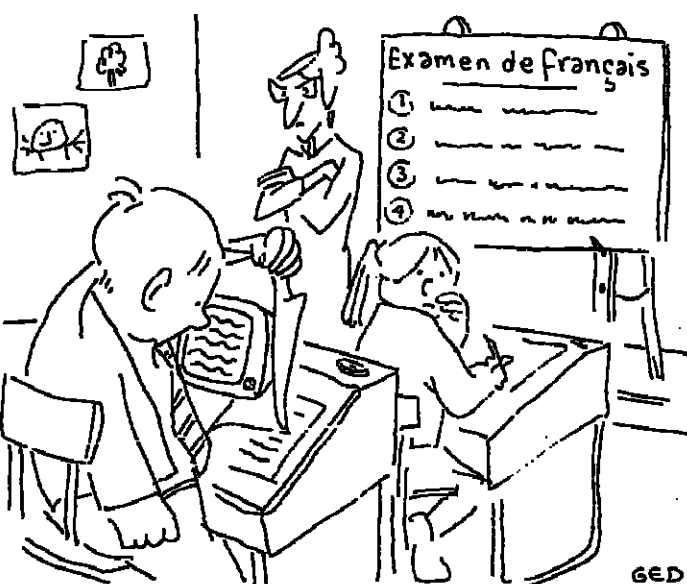
children like videos, there is enormous potential," she says. At present, most titles are aimed either at pre-school and early learners or at GCSE students needing revision aids. But there are already some videos available for use by primary school children.

The six *Make Your Mark* videos from Avon, for example, are based on the national curriculum, and cover the three core topics of maths, English and science. Aimed at five to 11-year-olds, each costs £10.99.

Given parental concerns about standard assessment tests and levels of attainment, it is not surprising that various companies plan to introduce similarly targeted videos later this year. In addition, Wonderland is working on a project to put the science section of the *Oxford Children's Encyclopaedia* on to three tapes, which will be sold as a boxed set for £29.99 in the autumn.

One of the current best sellers is Carol Vorderman's *Times Tables* (£8.99), which is set to rock and rap and was launched last autumn by the Storm Company as part of its Video Class series covering maths and English.

Although the other titles are aimed at ten to 16-year-olds, *Times Tables* is for primary school children. One reason for its success is that Ms Vorderman is best



known as the numbers queen on Channel 4's *Countdown*. As Ms McKechnie observes: "In general, unless there is a link with television, it is very difficult to get good sales."

It is possible that this has less to do with the power of television than the fact that parents are reluctant to buy a pig in a poke. With educational books, you can flip through the pages before you buy. With a video, you have to put with your money without knowing what is on the tape. At least if you

have seen something on television, you will have a rough idea what to expect — and know whether or not you approve of the presenter or the characters involved.

Of course, parental approval is only part of the equation. The real question is whether children really want to watch educational videos at all, however sweetly the pill is sugared. My own seven-year-old, keen to emulate his older sister, who learns French at school, asked to see *Bonjour Les Amis 2*. His attention wandered after five min-

utes. "It's too slow and babyish," was his verdict.

However, Sharon Rule, of Norwich, has had more success with one of Wonderland's Ladybird activity tapes in the *Read With Me* series, *Dragon Ben*, which her four-year-old daughter Charlotte enjoys watching.

"After we've taken her older brother to school, Charlotte likes to come home and watch a video," Mrs Rule says. "I thought I'd get her something rather more constructive than cartoons. She chooses what she wants to watch, and sometimes she still picks the cartoons but she goes for *Dragon Ben* more than I thought she would. She started recognising some of the words which come up on the screen, and I do think it's a way they learn without realising they're learning."

To a four-year-old, *Dragon Ben* no doubt falls into the same category as other cartoon characters. But in my experience older children sense a crucial difference between old favourites such as Count Duckula and new characters like Moustache the Cat. Duckula is there to amuse. Moustache is there to teach.

Victoria Oliver, the video co-ordinator for BBC Educational Publishing, suspects the market for educational videos is not as big as some suppliers believe. "When kids come home from school, they

are not going to sit down and say, 'let's watch an educational video'. And if they've got £10 in their pockets, they're going to buy *In Bed With Madonna*, so you've got to target the parents. But I think it's a myth that there is a vast army of middle-class parents out there, obsessed by education and keen to use videos because they're a good teaching aid," she says.

"Teachers are crying out for material to use in schools but their expectations are much lower. After all, as a parent, if you can buy Disney for £12.99, will you settle for anything less?"

Of course, Disney can be educational. *Fantasia* has been one of the top-selling video titles of recent months and, as Olive Forsyth of the National Union of Teachers says, "*Fantasia* is done in such a jolly way that it can encourage music appreciation, just as video versions of the classics can introduce children to a variety of literature."

The animated operas and the animated tales of Shakespeare — two projects in the pipeline — will undoubtedly do well. But I offer a cautionary tale.

Last week, in an attempt to encourage my ten-year-old to develop what her teacher calls reading stamina, I suggested she borrow T.H. White's book *The Sword in the Stone* from the library. She took a quick look inside and then placed it firmly back on the shelf. "I've seen it on video," she said.

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## Between and not heard

Why is five to 15 uncharted territory?

Where do teenagers come from? Everyone knows where babies come from. Much attention is lavished on the issues of infancy. But after children reach the age of five, the gurus of child-rearing grow silent. It seems — as though once parents had delivered their offspring through the school gates, they no longer have problems.

A period of calm in parenthood is believed to follow, the plateau of reason in the child's development. The next time parents or children are paid any general attention is when the children reach their teens. Colic and pot-training are replaced by belligerence and solvent abuse as areas of parental concern.

Teenagers materialise. The age of glue-sniffing, heavy petting and heavy metal, latterly drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll. And they seem to have spontaneously generated. Yet the pre-teen years have been largely neglected. Society recognises the problems of two-year-olds' tantrums in Tesco, and then teenage court appearances for smuggling granaries, but nothing in between. But this middle generation of children from five to ten can no longer be overlooked.

For a start, there are more of them. The greatest increase in population from now until 2000 will be among five to 14-year-olds. There will be 13 per cent more of them, compared with a total

'Children can raise anxieties and force parents to examine their own lives'

population growth of 3 per cent. That is where all the teenagers come from.

And they are getting there sooner. During this century the age of puberty has advanced by one month every ten years. "Girls are first menstruating at 11 to 11½ on average," says Dr John Coleman, director of the Trust for the Study of Adolescence. "The onset of puberty occurs about 12 to 18 months later for boys."

Most children are becoming "teenagers" before their teens. So, the plateau is a little shorter and not as flat as previously supposed. "Parents today feel that their children are pressured into early adolescence," says Dr Coleman. "As parents we're more open with children, so kids are more aware. Children arrive at social puberty, awareness of the other sex, far sooner."

From sex to shopping. The increasing sophistication of this pre-teen group gives it greater influence in the world. A report published last October by Mintel International, consumer research analysts, *Children — The Influencing Factor 1999*, found that children of five to 11 had the greatest effect on their parents' purchasing decisions. It identifies children accompanying parents to supermarkets as "naggers" or "trolley-loaders", the not-so-hidden persuaders.

The Consumers' Association plans to bring out a new publication next autumn, *Check It Out*, aimed at ten to 15-year-olds, "to help kids make choices wisely," says Sue Harvey, the editor. Persuasion for the persuaders. There are many of them and they are of one mind. And their minds are often occupied with video games.

Channel 4's programme *Gamesmaster* enjoys an audience of some 2.9 million viewers. "It was originally aimed at ten to 16-year-olds," says Dominic Diamond, the presenter, "but now we know it's watched and enjoyed not just by pre-teen boys, but girls too, some as young as six or seven."

In a survey of readers of *Parenting Plus*, a new magazine "all about five to 15-year-olds", 82 per cent list emotional problems at the top of their concerns. They realise how family influence gives way to peer-group pressure as their children grow.

Many parents with children approaching adolescence have problems of their own. "Often they are in their middle years, reassessing their own careers and marital relationships," says Dr Coleman. The challenges presented by their children can raise anxieties and force parents to examine their own lives and values.

In spite of the external pressures and growing independence and sophistication of this age group, parents are not entirely redundant. "Teenagers do need parents. And adults need help to understand the process and the problems of adolescence so that they can offer their children guidelines in sensible and safe behaviour."

Teenagers do not come from nowhere. We grow them ourselves. The stark did not bring them; as parents, we brought them on ourselves.

DAVINA LLOYD

The writer is editor of *Parenting Plus* magazine, published this month.

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# Searching for the eighth wonder

**Anne McElvoy meets the man who is trying to unravel one of the great war mysteries: the whereabouts of Peter the Great's Amber Chamber, stolen by the Nazis and said to be worth millions, but not seen since the end of the war**



Searching: Hans Stadelmann

Standing on Weimar's square with no name, formerly Karl Marx Square, formerly Square of the Führer Adolf Hitler, Hans Stadelmann's eyes glint as he surveys the preserved Nazi architectural compound around him and announces: "We may well be standing above one of the greatest lost treasures of the world."

A moment later he jabs a finger at sheets of engineering diagrams, the result of the last months' fresh research into the whereabouts of the Amber Chamber. After a while he observes that his listeners are not *au fait* with perpendiculars and plumb line readings, so he keeps it simple. "There are hundreds of rooms down there, none of them accessible to anyone except the SS since 1943. What were they hiding? And why has there been no attempt to excavate since the war? The communists just sealed off the whole underground area."

Herr Stadelmann, a retired construction foreman, is convinced that the chamber, a present from Germany's Frederick William I to the Russian tsar Peter the Great in 1716, lies buried beneath the complex of grandiose 1936 buildings known as the Gauforum. This incongruous monument to the Nazis forms a blot on the elegant Thuringian town which would prefer to be remembered for producing Goethe and Schiller than Buchenwald and Bormann. The chamber, also known as the *Bernsteinszimmer*, consists of 21 ornate wall panels and furnishings, all decorated with Baltic amber, a favourite stone of European royalty.

Herr Stadelmann has spent the past five years combing Third Reich records in his attempt to piece together one of the great war mysteries: the whereabouts of the treasure known as the eighth wonder of the world and estimated to be worth DM 250 million (£88 million).

In Weimar, his stocky figure has become a familiar sight, tapping the ground outside the Gauforum, peering the town archives for details of building work. He ranked as an obsessive, an old man passing his retirement in pursuit of the impossible.

Now that both the German and Russian worlds have shifted on

their axes, there are strong indications that Herr Stadelmann may be right. In December last year, Boris Yeltsin announced that he knew where the chamber was. A Soviet newspaper fuelled the excitement, quoting an unearthed intelligence report as saying that the treasure was buried in Thuringia.

But Mr Yeltsin's confidence was followed by a crashing silence from Moscow, suggesting that the Russians had decided for tactical reasons to let the mystery of the Amber Chamber mature a little longer.

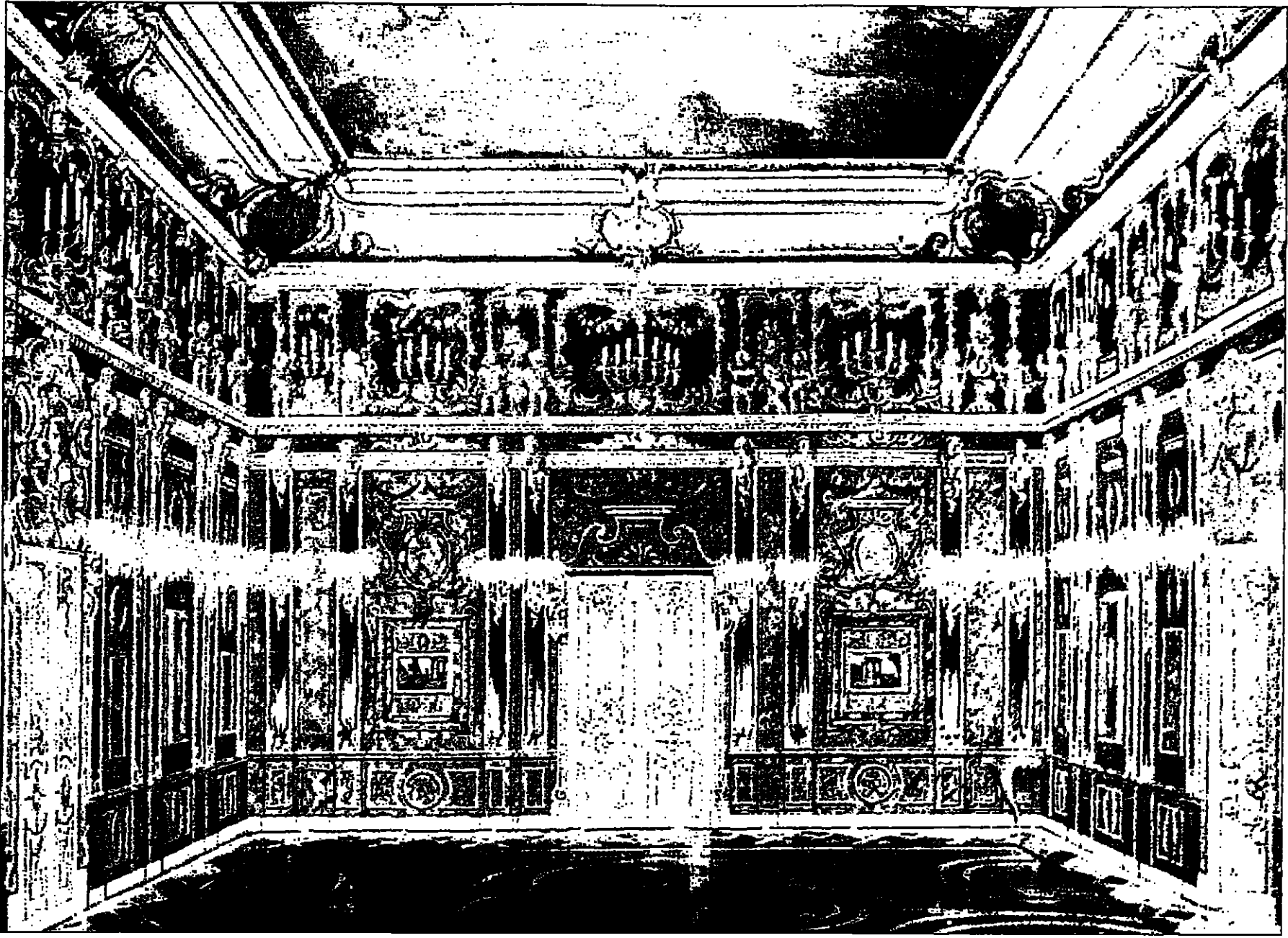
Originally installed in St Petersburg's winter palace, the chamber was then moved to the summer palace at nearby Zarskoye Selo. It was taken as German booty during the 1941 invasion. Wehrmacht troops were ordered to dismantle it and return it to German soil. It was last seen in the castle at Königsberg, now Kaliningrad, in 1944. The only photograph of the room in existence was taken after its reassembly there.

**'There are hundreds of rooms, none of them accessible to anyone except the SS since 1943. What were they hiding?'**

When the British intensified their raids on the east Prussian city, the curator of the city's art treasures, Alfred Ronde, ordered that the chamber be moved again. It was packed into some 30 crates for removal westwards in January 1945 — and never seen again.

A thousand theories have since emerged about its fate. A Soviet officer recorded that he had found the charred remains of the chamber's floor tiles in Königsberg and concluded that the crates had been burned. Other Königsberg sources relate that the crates went down in the Baltic when the Wilhelm Gustloff, one of the last German ships to leave the city, was torpedoed in January 1945. Nazi records, however, indicate that the treasure did leave Königsberg — most probably on a special train ordered by the city's Gauleiter Erich Koch, a passionate collector of other people's art. Koch, who died in Polish captivity in 1986, announced: "Where my treasure is, the *Bernsteinszimmer* also lies."

His collection was last seen in Weimar in April 1945. An inven-



Unique: the only photograph in existence of the Amber Chamber was taken after its reassembly in the castle at Königsberg in the closing months of the second world war

tory discovered in the Weimar museum at the end of the war records that he was in possession of 100 amber pieces which could have been part of the chamber.

There is little doubt that its intended destination after Königsberg was Weimar, a stashing point for the art that the Nazis plundered from eastern Europe. As the German armies retreated in late 1944, Hitler became obsessed with contingency plans for his own safety. He ordered the building of a bunker in the Thuringian village of Jonastal, half an hour's drive from Weimar.

Some 5,000 inmates from the nearby Buchenwald concentration camp were provided as forced labour. But the work proceeded too slowly and Hitler's officials turned their attention back to the Gauforum. Koch met Martin Bormann in early 1945 and Koch's diary recalls that he

led Hitler's deputy through the maze of tunnels under the square. The SS files from this period have never been traced. Herr Stadelmann believes that they are buried beneath the Gauforum. The

blueprints for the complex show a set of rooms which cannot be reached from the main corridor. There are also sketches of a second basement, but apparently no stairway leading to it.

After the war, Thuringia ended up in East Germany. The Gauforum buildings, including the Gauleiter headquarters, the old museum and the police headquarters were occupied by the Soviet command until 1951 and then left to rot. Only in the early 1980s did the regime begin to show an interest in what might lie beneath the Gauforum. Hundreds of students were drafted in to clear the rubble from inside the museum. The Ministry of State Security allocated funds to the search and devoted unwelcome attention to Herr Stadelmann.

"They demanded details of my research. I didn't give them anything they could use," recalls Herr

Stadelmann, who never had much time for the communists. He believes that the government was belatedly keen to find the treasure — doubtless to sell abroad to finance its ailing economy — but that it was anxious not to unearth too many secrets of the Nazi period in the process.

For the town, the pride of the East as the birthplace of Goethe and Schiller, home of the classical movement and Germany's first, doomed democracy, had later proved fertile ground for national socialism. The communists were always at pains to understate the extent to which German fascism was a mass movement, preferring the more gratifying theory that it sprang from the marriage of interests between Hitler and big business with the middle, not the working class as the enthusiastic dupes.

When the communist regime collapsed, the rumours which had always circulated in the region about buried Nazi treasure re-emerged. After Mr Yeltsin's announcement, hundreds of Germans descended on the Jonastal site. They scraped and dug and peered down holes, but found nothing. Later, when the

tunnels, sealed by the Americans in 1945, were blasted open, there was no sign that anything had been stored there. The treasure-hunters turned back to Weimar.

The museum, which houses the entrance to the tunnels, is being scaffolded to prepare for a careful excavation in the years to come. But Herr Stadelmann is impatient. "There seems to be common interest between Bonn and Moscow that this should not proceed too quickly," he says. He believes there is a tacit German-Soviet agreement not to open up the tunnels until the Soviet troops finally pull out in 1994 to prevent mass outrage if buried victims of the Soviet occupation should be found there.

After some delay, Bonn has thrown only limited weight behind excavation on the grounds that searching for a lost treasure could be a costly and fruitless exercise. If art treasures are discovered beneath Weimar, they are likely to form the first major art exchange under the terms of the friendship treaty signed between Bonn and Moscow last year. The timing and extent of such an exchange is an important factor in relations between the new Germany and the even newer Russia.

The art establishment remains

sceptical about the Weimar lead. Klaus Roth, the director of the Missing Art of Europe foundation, insists that it is impossible that the Chamber should have reached Germany intact in 1945, but he does have grudging admiration for the exactitude of Herr Stadelmann's research. The layman still works without financial assistance, filing his documents in the corner of his living room, poring daily over maps and plans. He now receives polite calls from the foreign ministry requesting information. "If I live to see the chamber or even to know what happened to it, I will die happy," he says.

The search for the missing treasure has unearthed memories of events purposefully forgotten during the past four decades. "The story of the Amber Chamber has forced us all to be honest about the support that Hitler enjoyed in Weimar," says Georg Linder, a local researcher into the rise of fascism. Under its notorious Gauleiter Fritz Sauckel, the town was one of the earliest to national socialism. "The Nazi years remain undigested here — like a stone in the stomach," Mr Linder adds. "Maybe the treasure is history's way of forcing us to look more closely at our past and ourselves."

## Must the show go on?

Sunday night and the Jarrow Elvis Roadshow is on at the concert room of The Victoria Park pub in Jarrow on Tyneside. "Scream if you want to see Junior Elvis's body," shouts the compère. Junior Elvis swaggers on to the stage with the studied nonchalance of a star, only his mouth is hanging open, he has a twisted foot and a wasted body.

He knocks over the microphone and the audience begins to snigger. He attempts to sing, and people giggle. By the time he has finished butchering several Elvis songs they are laughing hysterically.

To the audience, the joke is that Junior, Jarrow, Geno, Clive and the rest of the roadshow are not in on the joke. The performers think that they are stars, the audience knows they cannot sing or dance. The women out on a hen night and the men out for a pint are under no illusion about what they are seeing. "We call it knackers night. Why? Well they're a sandwich short of a picnic, not very clever, a bunch of knackers really," says one of the audience.

The performers range from the emaciated to the grossly overweight. Two of them are physically disabled, others have a history of learning difficulties and have suffered from mental distress, none have jobs and all live on benefits. They are not paid for their acts, but they all love their job and the audience keeps coming back for more.

On Sunday nights, they can attract a full house of 350 people, more than for any professional performers during the week. Is this theatre of cruelty — an exploitative 20th century freak show? Or is it a form of care in the community, a way of making these

**'Knackers night' at the Jarrow Elvis Roadshow has split opinion over the ethics of performances by the disabled**

people feel integrated and needed. If they want to perform, does anyone have the right to stop them?

The debate has divided Jarrow. Most of the local people see nothing wrong in the show. They pack out the hall on Wednesday and Sunday nights, chat to the performers when they see them around town and feel that everyone is having a good laugh, so no harm is done.

The social services, the mental health charity Mind, and some of the performers' neighbours are perturbed, but are unsure what to do. Now 40 Minutes has produced a documentary on the roadshow and added to the dispute.

John Sargeant, a local resident and regional information officer for Mind, is caught between his feelings of revulsion and his liberal fears about denying the performers their freedom. Mind advocates involving people with disabilities in the community. "If they had chosen swimming or painting as a form of recreation it would have been easy, but they want to perform and it would be unfair to stop them."

"What I really can't agree with is the commercial aspect of the whole affair," he says. "If these people were making a living from what they did it wouldn't be exploitation, but they aren't and I don't know how the management can hold up their heads knowing

they are tricking these men out of any money."

The management does not believe that it is involved in anything unethical. Blake Robson, who was pub manager when the documentary was shot last July, but has since left, admits that the roadshow generated 80 per



Junior Elvis goes through the motions

cent of his turnover, and adds: "Without them the pub would close down."

He justifies paying performers only in lemonade and, for some, beer tokens, by saying that otherwise they would all lose their disabled benefits. "It's better than nothing," Junior Elvis says.

Mr Sargeant rubbishes the suggestion. "They are entitled to earn up to £15 a week and keep their disabled benefits. But the pub should be paying them the same rates as the band (a professional outfit), then they wouldn't need the disabled allowances."

The roadshow is delighted with its unexpected fame and Geno Hannah, the manic tambourine and maracas

player, never stops smiling. He also plays at local weddings and functions.

The Victoria Park has his salvation as a child he suffered from hearing and learning difficulties, with the result that he has a high-pitched squeal and talks in the third person. His grandmother died three years ago, and he is now alone. "Geno used to sit at home staring at the four walls, but now I get out, play my maracas, make people happy," he says in the documentary.

He has made friends with Clive Rieger, a singer, who has chronic ill health and a history of mental problems. They both agree that living in an institution would be like going to prison.

This provides the main argument for Mr Robson. "Their lives are boring and depressing, but when they are up on stage, in the lights, they can escape from the hell they are living," he says. However, he does admit to twinges of guilt and saves his conscience with rent arrears and free rehearsal rooms.

To Mr Sargeant, the determination of the performers in overcoming their disabilities is admirable. "Sadly, most people cannot see the heroism. They just see someone failing to reach the first rung on any normal ladder, and they feel it is all right to laugh." He is worried that the performers are living a fanta-

sy, and that it will all end in tears. "The pub is not a charity, it is a business, and when these men stop being financially viable where will they go?"

Already, new management has taken over the pub. It has cut down the roadshow from three hours to 20 minutes, and feels no responsibility towards the performers.

Richard Conroy, the new manager, says: "We keep thinking of dropping them, they have been going on for five years and they are just not new any longer. They are abominable. They murder the songs. I feel no obligation to them."

Nick Catliff, the 40 Minutes producer, admits that he had problems with the documentary. He did not want the audience to end up laughing at the roadshow because then he felt that he, too, would be exploiting the performers, but he wanted to convey the ethical ping-pong in Jarrow, and that involved extensive filming of the performance.

Initially, the documentary just showed the roadshow and local people, leaving viewers to draw their own conclusions, but both Mind and the BBC disability unit felt that people should be given direction, otherwise the film might just be considered a freak show, so more commentary was added.

Having worked on the documentary for three months, Mr Catliff is left feeling as torn as Mr Sargeant. "The club has made them celebrities and raised their self-esteem," he says. "The exploitation is morally indefensible, but no one is offering them anything better."

**ALICE THOMSON**  
Elvis in Jarrow, 40 Minutes. BBC2, 9.50pm tonight

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In response to popular demand the first six of 'The Way Ahead' programmes will be repeated for video recording, on the 4th and 5th of March from 2.15am to 3.45am on BBC1.

So, if you've missed them the first time round you will have another chance to find out all about Disability Living Allowance and how the new benefit will help around 300,000 newly eligible disabled people.

The rest of the series will continue at the usual times; Tuesday to Friday mornings at 2.00am to 2.15am.

For a free booklet accompanying the series phone free on 0800 282845 or write to The Way Ahead, PO Box 7, London W3 6XJ.

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# Did the Earth move for you?

The prospect of a married couple in a shuttle has forced Nasa to consider the implications of sex and pregnancy in space. Nigel Hawkes reports

The last frontier in space is proving a bit of an embarrassment for Nasa, the US space agency. Although it is sending up a married couple in the space shuttle in August, it refuses to contemplate the possibility of them boldly going where no astronaut has gone before.

A chaste kiss may be acceptable for Mark Lee and Jan Davis, who were selected for the mission before they married last year, but anything more is out.

Nasa officials shudder at the mere mention of sex in space, although their puritanism is showing signs of shifting. When Dr Yvonne Clearwater, the head of habitability research at Nasa's Ames Research Centre, wrote in the July 1985 issue of *Psychology Today* that the agency "must plan for the possibility of intimate behaviour" in space missions lasting 90 days or longer, she created a furore.

Yet last week the heavens failed to open when Regina North, a behavioural scientist at Nasa's Johnson Space Centre, told a conference at the University of Alabama that the agency was missing a golden opportunity to conduct research on sex in zero gravity. "We have this incredible opportunity, and there is no experiment planned," she said.

"This could be an experiment like no other life science experiment. We could monitor heart rates and determine what are the physiological problems."

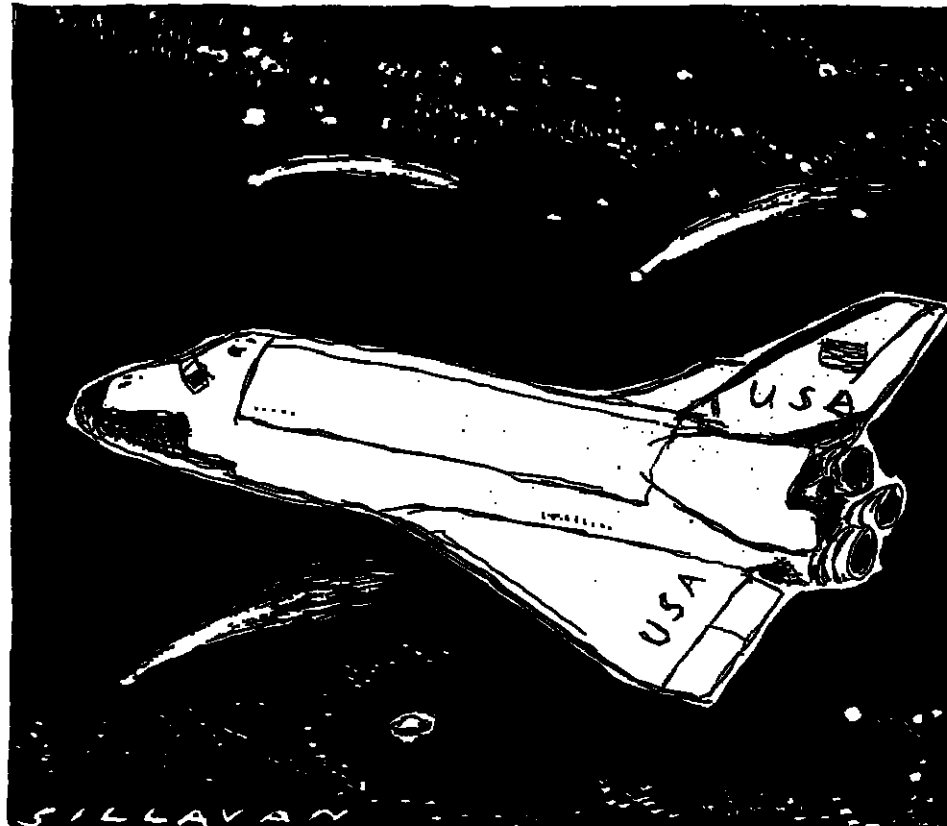
Dr North added: "Nasa doesn't want to talk about sex but I'm thinking about it. It's a very puritan society." She concedes, however, that astronauts don't have a lot of time to think about anything but their job. "They are using all their libido to do experiments. They're busy 24 hours a day."

The space shuttle is hardly the ideal place for a romantic rendezvous. Lt-Col Lee, who is 38, and his wife Dr Jan Davis, a 37-year-old mechanical engineer, will be travelling with five other astronauts in a space little bigger than a living-room.

True, plenty of relationships have been cemented in the backs of cars, but privacy is generally considered an important ingredient. Lt-Col Lee and his wife, showing the right stuff as far as the agency is concerned, have declined to comment on all the vulgar speculation.

According to a Nasa spokeswoman, they do not want their marriage to be the focus of the flight. Some hope.

The issue cannot, however, be postponed for ever. Once the US space station is in orbit, the extra



room and the privacy that will be available in a satellite 350ft long, with comfortable crew quarters, will probably make sexual relationships inevitable.

The question goes beyond sex. One characteristic of the long-duration Soviet space missions is the frequency with which the crew become morose, start bickering, and lose their ability to do their jobs.

Some experts have suggested that married couples might stand a better chance of surviving this kind of stress.

Former Apollo astronaut Michael Collins—who had the frustrating task of orbiting the Moon on the Apollo 11 mission while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin set foot on its surface—has written a book called *Mission to Mars*, which argues the case.

"An element of stability, of old-shoe comfort, would be introduced by having one's wife or husband to fall back on," he says. "Certainly a singles-bar atmosphere, a charged mixture of sexually unattached competitors, would be a disaster." Sex is one thing, pregnancy is another. While the speculation is that sex in space might be reasonably easily accomplished, there is genuine uncertainty about a space

pregnancy, with questions over the effects of low gravity and high radiation.

Experiments with insects have shown that the space environment can affect the development of cells, so the possibility of mutations cannot be ruled out. Many scientists would prefer to observe the reproduction of rats and mice in space first.

"Space may not be the best place

to get pregnant," Dr Lynn Wiley of the University of California recently told the *New York Times*. "But my personal feeling is that over the long term, it's inevitable that *Homo sapiens* is going to leave the earth and establish colonies on other planets with all that that implies. To me it's not too early to begin preparations for that kind of event. We can't ignore the reproductive issues any longer."

## How Neolithic Man farmed wheat

Seeds give clues to the origins of agriculture

Utensils found at excavations tell archaeologists that our Neolithic forebears, 4,000 years BC, were the first farmers. They grew wheat and ground it into flour, and bread was part of their staple diet—although a handful of charred or waterlogged seeds are often the only organic remains found.

But was the bread they made soft and spongy or more like a hard pizza base? Did communities in neighbouring valleys grow different strains of wheat and swap them? If so, where did the better bread-making varieties of this important crop originally come from?

According to new British research, some answers can be found locked and encoded in the cells of a preserved wheat seed.

Molecular biologists at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), working with archaeologists at Cambridge University, have discovered an important genetic link with the past.

They have isolated intact chains of DNA molecules—the genetic blueprint—from wheat seed remnants thousands of years old.

Professor Martin Jones, of

Cambridge University's department of archaeological sciences, says: "We know that the wheat grown by early man must have had different characteristics from what we grow now, but that is simply because the seeds look different."

Tests have confirmed the presence of preserved DNA

### The genetic information may answer old mysteries

in a range of seed remains up to 2,000 years old. A set of waterlogged seeds came from a medieval cesspit site in Oxford and partially fossilised seeds came from old Palestine. Charred seeds came from the former threshing areas and storage pits of an Iron Age hill fort at Danebury in Hampshire, which had a population of about 500 in 500BC.

The key difference between DNA in a living organism and that in an ancient seed specimen is the length of intact DNA chains. With

time, DNA chains comprising several thousand linked chemical units called nucleotides break down into shorter fragments.

Laboratory analysis of the ancient DNA carried out by Dr Terry Brown at the department of biochemistry at UMIST has found intact DNA chains up to 1,000 nucleotide units long. "From the amounts of DNA we are extracting from the seeds," he says, "it is likely that they still contain at least one copy of all their DNA molecules."

Current evidence suggests that farming originated in the Levant 12,000 years ago, but that it did not arrive in this country until nearly 6,000 years later.

Professor Jones believes this new technique of biochemical archaeology could provide evidence to fill many of the gaps in our knowledge of that process.

The genetic information locked in these charred grains of wheat could hold the answers to some of the mysteries surrounding trade and the growth and spread of farming practices among our early ancestors across Europe and Asia," he says.

Some of the key questions are: was agriculture invented once and then spread or did



Professor Martin Jones: Solving mysteries of trade

people all over the world move in the same direction at a certain time in history? Were neighbouring valleys swapping crops? How much genetic material have we lost? The UMIST team will look for a baseline set of genes which characterise different sorts of wheat and which are insensitive to evolutionary selection pressures. That way they will be able to trace how trade in seeds spread farming across Europe and Asia.

"Archaeologists working

with crops and plants still use early 19th-century methods," Professor Jones says.

"We still look down ordinary microscopes and separate the short, fat seeds from the long, thin ones and try to make informed guesses on how they are related."

"These new methods will allow archaeologists to speak the same language as cutting edge biologists at the molecular level."

MICK HURRELL

## Botulism helps to fight a mystery disease

FOR ten years, the only way Maria Pearson could recognize family and friends was by the colour and style of the shoes they were wearing. "I used to tell everybody who knew me not to change their footwear because it made life so difficult," she says. "I could not tell who they were."

She did not know it at the time but she was afflicted by a rare form of dystonia, a disorder that doctors believe affects parts of the brain, causing unpredictable muscle spasms. In her case, the main symptom was an inability to lift her eyelids to see the world.

The condition became so bad that people assumed I was asleep," she recalls. "People talk about not being able to keep their eyes open through exhaustion. For me it was true, but in my case I felt wide awake."

The breakthrough came when she heard about the Dystonia Society and sought help through it. Her condition was diagnosed as a rare form of dystonia called blepharospasm, which appears as muscle spasm affecting the area around the eyes.

While Ms Pearson was an extreme case, other victims have been known to suffer involuntary grunting and uncontrollable blinking. Dystonia affecting the arms and hands is known as writer's cramp.

Neurologists believe that

many cases go undiagnosed. The Dystonia Society says that as many as one in 2,000 people may be affected to varying degrees. Britain has 4,000 known sufferers.

Researchers are some way from understanding the cause of blepharospasm, let alone close to finding a cure, but they may be on their way to controlling some of the symptoms. A new treatment,

### 'After the first injection, I could actually see the sky'

a toxin developed at Porton Down in Wiltshire, is producing dramatic results. The toxin is derived from an organism called *Clostridium botulinum*, which grows in food and is more familiar as botulism, the notorious organism of food poisoning.

Minute amounts of the toxin, one of the deadliest known to man, are injected under the skin of the affected areas in suitable patients. The theory is that it so weakens the muscles that the distressing contractions ease off, then stop completely.

Ms Pearson decided to sample the treatment, with amazing results. She says: "It sounded very unusual but I

could not go on as I was. The morning after the first injection was a miracle. I could actually see the sky."

At first, she had the injections every few weeks; now they are at five-monthly intervals. She has not suffered any side-effects.

The therapy was developed in the US by Alan Scott, an ophthalmic researcher looking for ways of treating eye squints and ties that would not require invasive surgery. He hit on the idea of botulinum treatment (BT) while looking for agents that could paralyse muscle tissue.

British researchers at the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research at Porton Down have used skills honed over years of work in germ warfare technology to come up with their own toxin, for which last year the government granted a product licence. It is marketed through Porton Products, a private company, but the royalties go to CAMR and indirectly to the taxpayer.

Dr Peter Hambleton, who helped develop the toxin, says that although it is not a cure for dystonia, the relief it has already brought to victims justifies the research and development costs.

Mike Eaton of the Dystonia Society said that the treatment does not work in all cases, although it is a lifeline for many.

DERMOT MARTIN

## Dolphins find a porpoiseful way to cruise

How the ocean-going mammals hitch a ride

DOLPHINS playing around the bows of ships are trying to get a free ride, measurements by American scientists have shown.

For the first time, researchers have proved what mariners have long suspected. By riding the bow or stern waves of ships, or keeping company with whales, dolphins are carried along effortlessly. All they need do is to twitch a fin occasionally to keep themselves in the right position.

Dr Terrie Williams and colleagues from the Hawaii Laboratory of Naval Ocean Systems Center in Kailua used bottlenose dolphins, which had been trained to swim alongside a 21ft motor boat while their heart rate and breathing were monitored through a special harness. Their metabolic rate was measured by taking blood samples immediately after exercise.

The scientists report in *Nature* that wave-riding is an exceptionally efficient means of transport. When the boat was moving through the water at four and a half mph, the dolphins swam alongside, but as the speed was increased they moved to the stern and rode the stern wave at speeds of up to eight miles per hour.

The measurements showed that the mammals were able to do so using barely any more energy than they did while swimming unaided at the slower rate. When the dolphins' metabolic rate was measured, it showed, Dr Williams says, that the faster the boat had been going, the less energy the dolphins needed to keep up.

The chances are that the dolphins' skill was developed long before there were ships in the oceans. The dolphins probably learnt the skill of hitching a ride by following whales. Dr



Evolutionary trick: bottlenose dolphin

Williams says: "Dolphins habitually follow whales and have probably been doing so for millions of years."

The evidence gathered shows that for a mammal, the dolphin is an exceptionally efficient swimmer, about twice as efficient as seals or sea lions, and about ten times as efficient as human beings. Fish, however, are more efficient still: a salmon as big as a dolphin, if such a creature can be imagined, would be about twice as efficient as a dolphin. However, salmon, clever as they may be, have not devised an energy-saving strategy to rival the dolphin's. The authors of the study conclude: "What appears to be playful behaviour to the casual observer on ship also provides an economical (albeit not free) ride for the dolphin."

NIGEL HAWKES

## Ice body is dated

CARBON dating has confirmed that the body found in an Alpine glacier last year is that of a man who lived 5,300 years ago. Tests at laboratories in Oxford and Zurich confirmed the dates found earlier for samples of grass taken from the man's clothing.

The man was found close to the border between Austria and Italy. The tests show that he died between 3,350 BC and 3,300 BC.

### Gulf oil trip

UNESCO has sponsored a 100-day scientific cruise of the Persian Gulf to study the effect of the oil spills during

the Gulf war. More than 120 specialists from 15 countries will use the American research vessel *Mount Mitchell* during the cruise, which set off last week from Muscat.

They will also take the opportunity to study the currents, tides and temperatures of the Gulf, as well as oil contamination.

### Birth pain

WOMEN who have painful periods may also suffer more pain in childbirth, the *Journal of Psychosomatic and Obstetric Gynaecology* reports. Professor Nancy Lowe of Ohio State University interviewed 165 women and found that the most significant predictors of labour pain were confidence and previous

## SCIENCE BRIEFS

experience of period pain. The more confident the woman was about labour, the less pain she experienced.

### Ring fingered

IO, THE third-largest moon of Jupiter, is far less active volcanically than it was 12 years ago. The *Ulysses* spacecraft swung around Jupiter in February on its way to the Sun, and observed that a gaseous ring around the planet was far smaller than expected, suggesting that Io was less active than when it was observed by the Voyager probes in 1979.

### Nuclear aid

JAPAN may provide the former Soviet Union with the technology to build a fast

breeder reactor so that stockpiles of weapon plutonium can be used as nuclear fuel, Japanese government officials have said. Between 70 and 80 tonnes of plutonium could come from the 15,000 warheads that might ultimately be scrapped.

### Tumour study

MUTATIONS in a gene that normally suppresses tumours are responsible for the growth and increase in malignancy of brain tumours, a team led by Bert Vogelstein of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has reported in *Nature*.

### Technique fails

A PROCEDURE used in some hospitals to try to pre-

vent fatal infections by decontaminating the digestive tract with antibiotics is ineffective, according to a French study. *The New England Journal of Medicine* reports: "Selective decontamination of the digestive tract does not improve survival, though it substantially increases the cost of care."

### Pit pollution

PROFESSOR Iain Thornton of the Global Environment Research Centre at Imperial College, London, is to launch a study of ancient mining and smelting sites in Britain.

Finding how far toxic metals have penetrated into the soil at old lead and zinc smelters and pre-1700 brass works should provide a way of measuring how quickly toxic metals move, and help in assessing recent contamination of soil by industry.

## Lessons take a dive for undersea pupils

IN A Liverpool lecture theatre in a year's time, children will be able to drive mini-submarines although they are 7,000 miles away and take part in underwater experiments, as a British museum becomes the first institution outside North America to join the Jason Project.

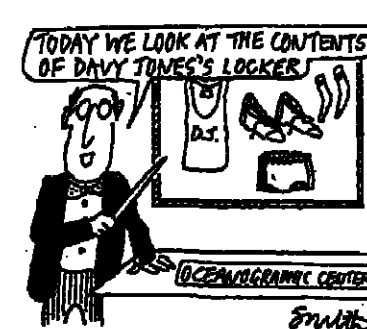
Robert Ballard, the scientist who discovered the wrecks of the *Titanic* and the *Bismarck* battle-cruiser set up the project three years ago. The idea was to make science learning more interesting by involving students directly, via satellite, in some of the exciting ventures being carried out by teams from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

In a two-week programme of live

satellite links next February, the children will communicate with oceanographers, marine biologists and archaeologists working hundreds of feet below the surface in the Sea of Cortez off the California coast.

Dr Ballard has established 20 primary interaction network sites (PINS) in the US and Canada, where equipment has been installed to link with underwater experiments.

The Liverpool Museum, part of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, will become the first PIN on this side of the Atlantic, with a studio in the lecture theatre of the Merseyside Maritime Museum. American and Canadian children have been able to join an excavation of Roman vessels in the Atlantic and



experiments among the animals of the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean. A Woods Hole team is now examining a phenomenon over the San Andreas seismic fault in the Sea of Cortez that creates large parcels of

hot water and its effect on the maritime wildlife.

Watching three giant screens in the museum's lecture theatre, the children will be able to watch experiments live as they are carried out in the Sea of Cortez, question the scientists as they work and even drive by remote control the mini-submarines carrying television cameras.

The museum now has to raise about £160,000 for the satellite equipment and the running costs of the programme. Eric Greenwood, keeper of Liverpool Museum, said the project would open children's minds to the excitement of science.

SIMON TAIT



# The Inns under pressure to reform

Why should eating dinners be necessary?  
Derek Wheatley, QC, queries tradition  
and Frances Gibb puts a case for reform

A student saying that he or she is eating dinners for call to the Bar may sound rather grand, but what does it mean? Is it necessary to have to eat dinners to qualify as a member of a learned profession nowadays? Who organises it and who pays?

These are questions not often asked and less often answered. The reason may be that the four inns of court, Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple and Gray's Inn, have the sort of mystique and history that is loved, backed by a sort of power and authority that is revered.

The complete respectability of the inns of court is underwritten by those who rule them — the Masters of the Bench or "benchers". These include the Prince of Wales at Gray's Inn, Princess Margaret at Lincoln's Inn, the Queen Mother and the Princess of Wales at Middle Temple, and the Duke of Edinburgh at Inner Temple. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, in other areas a great reformer, is an honorary bencher of Inner Temple.

The inns of court are of ancient origin. Gray's Inn, for instance, belonged in the 13th century to Sir Reginald Le Gray, who was given responsibility for legal teaching. The magnificent Middle Temple Hall, built by Elizabeth I, has the best hammer-beam ceiling in Britain and has been "home" for barristers since 1570. The Temple Church witnessed the nightly vigil of those about to join the Holy Order of the Knights Templar before the knights were turned out by Edward I in 1312 and the barristers moved in.

Benchers are chosen from barristers of the inn, usually seven or eight years after being granted silk. There are slight variations between the inns but 60 to 80 per cent of QCs become benchers. Once appointed, they may use the splendid private rooms of their inn like life members of a club with only a modest entrance fee and no annual subscription.

Senior members of no other profession have such power or privileges. They pay a price, it is true, because benchers sit on all the committees of the inn and give their time and expertise without additional reward to administer the often tedious business.

The fact remains, however, that benchers are not only above other lawyers of their inn but above the law. *Halsbury's Laws of England* says of the inns of court with some awe: "The Benchers are the governing body who alone have power to fill vacancies in or to add to their own number... to call students to the Bar... they can expel any member and can disbar a Barrister and disbench one of their own number. The property of each Inn is vested in Trustees appointed from among the Benchers... in all these matters they are entirely outside the jurisdiction of the ordinary Courts... an action cannot be maintained against the Benchers... in respect of any act done by them in their official capacity."

The Courts have refused to grant a mandamus to admit a person as a student or to call a student to the Bar and will not determine questions of title to Chambers which belong to any of the Inns of Court.

Benchers undertake their selection themselves so that they are a self-perpetuating minority, and by secret vote, not to be disclosed by any bencher, under pain that he "shall lose his voice in Parliament". Those who are not selected never know why not.

Employed barristers find little favour here or in the Bar hierarchy generally. Only eight of many thousands have ever been appointed QC, although three of the eight were considered sufficiently worthy of honour by others to be appointed CBE as well.

Only one is thought ever to have been called to the bench, in 1988 by Gray's Inn.

Among other privileges, benchers have better food and better wine than students and, in most inns, than the other barristers as well. All food and drink is subsidised by the inns, whose main source of revenue is the rents paid by barristers for their professional chambers.

There has been controversy over the level of rents charged. This resulted in the passing of an unprecedented resolution at the Bar's annual meeting last November by a large majority, "that the Bar Council... should require the four inns of court not to charge their Bar tenants, or to cease with immediate effect from charging



Bastion of the Bar: the Middle Temple. Top right: Derek Wheatley is a barrister in revolt against the customs of the respected inns

(as the case may be), a rent which exceeds the open market rental obtainable for similar leases of similar buildings in the immediate vicinity of each inn."

A look at the accounts of one of the inns at the end of 1990 gives some insight into the cause of the resentment prompting the resolution. These show that in that year income from professional cham-

bers, where barristers work, was £2,789,365, but from residential chambers or flats, only £198,188. As residential chambers in that inn account for 22.4 per cent of the whole letting area, it seems they bear less than their fair share, only 6.6 per cent, of the whole burden. About half of them (31 out of 67) are occupied by benchers of the inn, to whom details of

residential chambers available for letting are first circulated.

Back to the dinners. Should students, as part of their qualification, have to eat dinners at all? This used to be a yardstick of Bar legal education. Dining was accompanied by moots and readings of the law. There was no other education except this and watching experienced barristers at work

in the courts. Since 1875, however, the Council of Legal Education has taken over. There have been formal training and examinations. To be qualified for call to the Bar, students no longer have to attend moots or readings but only to pass the examinations — and eat 24 dinners, over one to two years.

Students as well as barristers



must appear, robed, by 7pm in the halls of the inns. Panelled walls are embellished with the coats of arms of former treasurers and readers of the inns. Old Master paintings hang on the walls.

The steward, wearing a medieval robe and badge of office, calls them to order by solemnly striking his staff of office on the oak floor. All stand and keep silence while the benchers make their entrance marching in procession, two by two in order of seniority. Only when "grace before meat" has been said can talk resume. Students might prefer less formality.

Dinners are entertaining and useful as a venue for the exchange of ideas between students. There are, of course, many other such venues and it seems unlikely that students would dine in hall quite so often unless they had to.

As for the selection of benchers, no mention is made of this in the helpful information that the inns give to students. Perhaps it is about time there was. Perhaps it is time, too, that barristers of every inn were allowed to play a part in a public vote for those who should become benchers, instead of the rather secret, if not secretive, processes of the past still practised.

● The author is the vice-president of the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry, and a former chairman

## Opening up the debate

The four inns of court are facing calls for a radical overhaul. Senior members of the profession, as well as distinguished outsiders such as Lord Benson, who chaired the Royal Commission on Legal Services more than a decade ago, have urged reform.

Such is the authority of the inns and the benchers that some critics will not be quoted. Yet there is support for change to modernise the way the inns are run and make them more accountable to the practising Bar.

The would-be reformers are concerned about the inns' administrative structure and the composition and election of their governing bodies, made up of benchers.

In December, Gareth Williams, QC, the new Bar chairman, told the Bar Council: "The benchers are not elected by the practising members. The system of selection is one which would have raised an eyebrow even in Renaissance Italy. At the very least, a substantial proportion of the benchers of every inn should be elected by practising members of the Bar in a secret ballot open to all candidates."

Mr Williams objects not only to the secret selection process. He also objects that so many benchers are judges. The number varies from inn to inn but the smallest pro-

portion, at Inner Temple, is 60 out of 140. He favours a revival of the old Serjeants Inn for judges.

"No profession is governed in such a substantial part by people who are not members of the practising profession," Mr Williams says. He wants junior members of the Bar elected as benchers, as the barrister benchers are nearly always QCs, and perhaps half the benchers elected and others co-opted for particular expertise.

The inns have immense wealth because their properties are in a prime part of London. Their income, 90 per cent from letting the properties, comes largely from the practising profession. Until recently, rents were subsidised. The inns have now raised them to market levels, but, although they have maximised income, there is concern, as Lord Benson puts it, that "a severe shortage of cash is looming".

In *Counsel* magazine last July, Lord Benson set out radical reforms, needed, he said, if the inns were to train and educate the profession, the purpose for which they hold their assets.

He said the Bar "cannot afford, and does not need, an expensive layer of administration between the governing body — the Bar Council — and the members to whom it is responsible". The inns need

large sums of money, he argues, to modernise their properties. They also face the growing cost of recruitment, vocational training, payment of pupil barristers and continuing education.

Lord Benson says: "The government and the administration of the whole of the activities of the Bar [including the inns' assets] should be firmly placed where it properly belongs, which is in the hands of a restructured Bar Council. In turn, the functions of the inns will necessarily diminish."

Other criticisms have been raised. Richard Southwell, QC, a bencher of Inner Temple, has questioned whether the inn, as a charitable trust, should "spend what we now spend on subsidising the meals of barristers and benchers".

He also questions whether the office of treasurer, the head of the inn elected every year, should not be a longer-term appointment and made earlier in barristers' careers.

Not surprisingly, the inns resist the most radical of these proposals. They argue that much has been done in recent years to modernise and improve their administration and to co-ordinate their work on recruitment, for instance. Captain Patrick Sheehan, the Inner Temple sub-treasurer, the senior permanent official,

says: "The cost of education is going to be a problem, although the costs are not quantified." The inns, he says, will have to cut their coat according to their cloth.

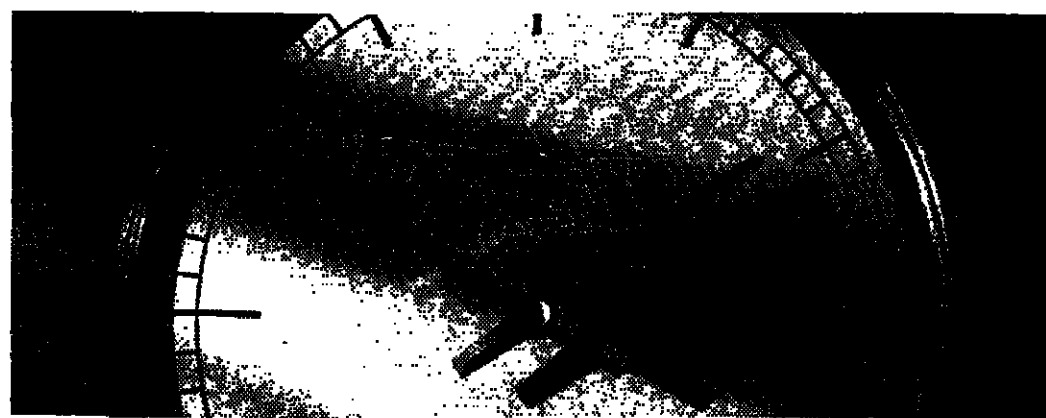
However, he does not accept that the inns should fall under the Bar Council's control. There is no evidence, he argues, that a more centralised organisation would achieve better results. There is also the danger that the Bar would lose the identity the inns give and become a large, amorphous body.

He also argues that a wider election process would involve members of the Bar voting for the governing body of an inn that they never used, because they were outside London, or knew little about. He and Rear-Admiral Richard Hill, the under-treasurer of the Middle Temple, both say that removing judges from the inns' governing body would remove expertise. The judges, they say, contribute in free time and from their experience. "The vast majority of our committees are indeed practising barristers," Admiral Hill says, "but we value the judges' wisdom."

A Bar working party will soon produce a report, "The Way Ahead", on the inns and how they should manage their resources. Reform is certain to follow.

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## Sparing the rod

ALTHOUGH English law of assault still makes an exception of corporal punishment by parents and schools, more countries are taking steps to outlaw physical punishment and other abuse.

Germany has proposed joining Austria and Scandinavia by making illegal not only smacking children but ignoring or constantly criticising them. This follows a government report on violence in German society that recommended banning physical punishment in the home.

### Deputy debate

SPECULATION is turning to who will succeed Lord

Justice Tasker Watkins as deputy to the Lord Chief Justice. Lord Lane created the post of deputy because of the work burden. Lord Justice Tasker Watkins may continue for a while to see Lord Justice Taylor into the job. However, he has great loyalty to the outgoing chief and may consider that a complete change is needed.

### The 100 group

THE first meeting of the London region's group of the Association of Women Solicitors last month was attended by more than 100. However, it is worrying in these days of equality to see that the group seems to fall into the trap of



stereotyping women professionals as power dressers gone mad by planning fashion evenings at Mondri and Aquascutum.

The group will also have a session on women in the judiciary, which sadly will not take long, given the paucity of women on the bench.

### All together

THE continuing lack of a proper conciliation and mediation service for divorcing couples has prompted several organisations, including the Solicitors' Family Law Association and the Family Law Bar Association, to join a forum aimed at working out a co-ordinated national service.

The forum proposes that existing services should be reviewed through the care and family hearing centres set up under the Children Act 1989.

The act contemplates that conciliation and mediation services should be widely available, as do the proposals to reform divorce law. The forum intends to put its findings to the Lord Chancellor's department.

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quick



# Quick justice in the Gulf

Jeffrey A. Jannuzzo and Richard J. Francis report on the United Nations' speedy action on compensation for victims

Saddam's soldiers had just torched the Kuwait oilfields a year ago, and the worst oil spill in history was spreading across the Gulf. Millions of guest workers thanked God they had escaped from the war zone alive, while wondering how they would survive after losing all they owned. The Iraqis had their meeting with cluster bombs on the Highway of Death, but no help was expected for the innocent injured.

The damage could never be recompensed, it was said. Iraq was bankrupt.

In the days after the ground war ended, a simple argument surfaced: treat Iraq like any ordinary wrongdoer, and garnish, or seize, its liquid assets to pay compensation to those it injured. Iraq had immense amounts of oil, which could be attached by the United Nations the way the court would attach a bank account. Iraq might be able to hide nuclear bomb factories in the hills, but its oil moved visibly to market by pipeline and tanker.

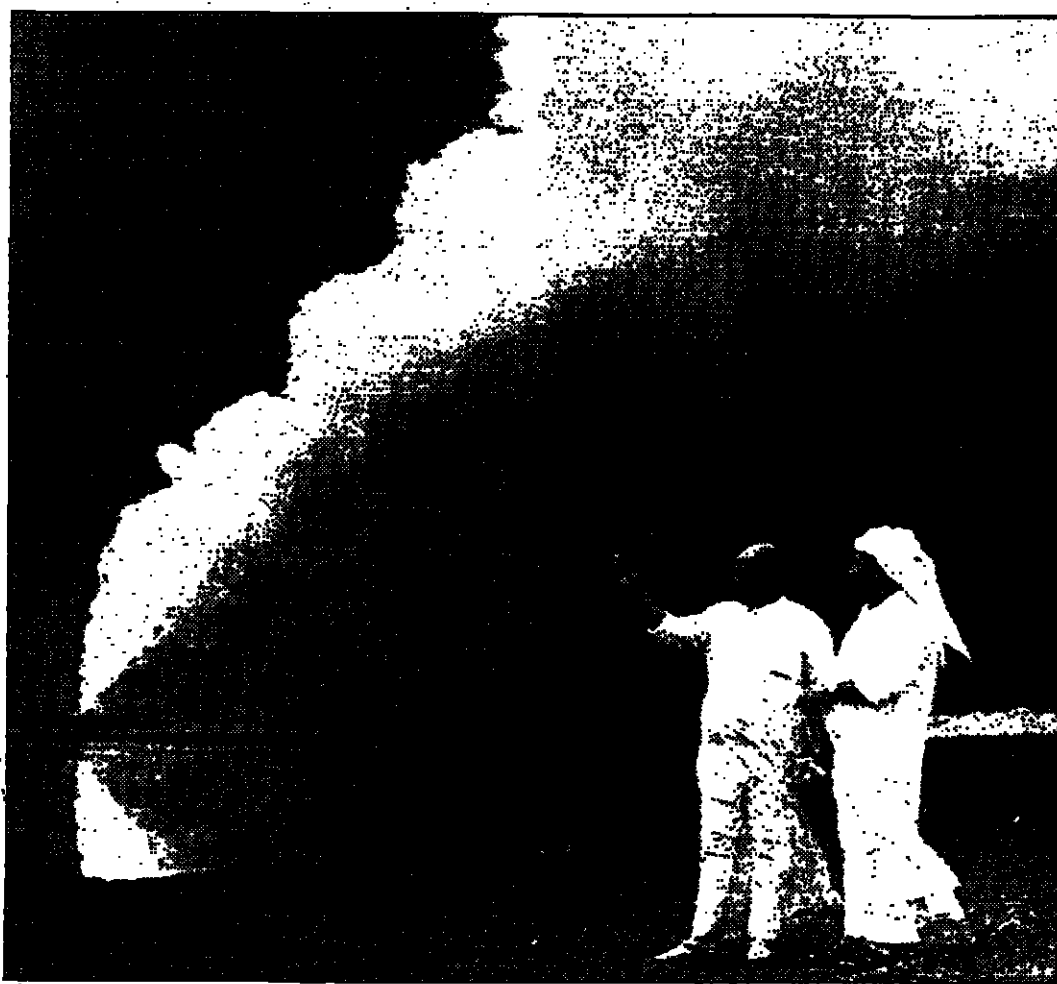
Eleven months ago today the UN Security Council enacted a resolution based on that ineluctable fact. The UN created a scheme for war reparations from oil revenues, an unprecedented event, just 33 days after the Gulf war ended. Never before have war damages been exacted through due process of law by the world community.

The UN set the percentage of oil to be taken by reference to the amount of oil proceeds spent by Iraq on civilian purposes. This was a subtle way of saying that the money spent in previous years on other than civilian needs, that is, on weapons, would now go to compensate people injured by those weapons.

A year ago, it would have been impossible to predict the speed with which the UN would tackle the peace-time task of turning the war reparations scheme into a reality, or the practicality and humanity that would guide them.

Yet, in a series of meetings that began only in August and is just about concluded, the fledgling UN Compensation Commission has already made the key decisions needed to flesh out the war claims programme, released the claims forms to member nations, and announced a deadline of July 1 for the first wave of claims for expedited processing.

Nearly 2,000 claim forms have already been received by Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which expects 2,500 to



Saddam's destruction: only a year later the victims of the war can begin to file their claims

3,000 claims that it will have to forward to the commission.

Compare this speedy process with what happened after the two world wars. In the United States, for example, the war claims legislation after the second world war was not enacted until 1948.

The commission was not set up until 1949, and the term "war claim" was legally defined for the first time in 1950.

After the first world war, the American commission did not come into existence until October 1922. In Britain some second world war claims are still reportedly unresolved. Suez claims too are still under review.

The UN commission faced the vexing problem of writing fair rules for compensation that would affect people in a wide range of

nations with vastly different economies and legal systems, and for claims, from millions of people, on an unprecedented scale.

The UN commission appreciated that rough justice brought swiftly is superior to perfect justice that never comes. In the same series of meetings, from August to date, it was able to make decisions on fixed sums to award and simple methods of proof to apply to broad classes of claimants, achieving by political consensus solutions that could have occupied scholars and judges for generations.

The most troublesome category included the millions of guest workers who had fled Iraq or Kuwait during the war to return to the countries whose impoverishment had caused them to accept the overseas jobs in the first place.

Under the simple consensus solution these people had to prove they were there before the war and left after the invasion. They would then be entitled to at least a flat award of \$2,500 (£1,450). That may not sound much, unless you are a Filipino labourer trying to make a new start in Mindanao after losing everything.

Individuals can also submit more extensively documented claims for forced departure, personal injury, property loss or a relative's death, for up to \$100,000 (£57,500), for expedited processing now, with the option of submitting an additional claim for a higher sum later.

Inevitably, applying general legislation — UN Resolution 687 — to actual cases would create some conundrums. The commission

must still wrestle with two. The first is the question of losses caused by compliance with the trade embargo the UN imposed on Iraq a few days after the invasion. The commission has not decided yet how to handle embargo claims, although it is rumoured to be willing to allow them only in limited circumstances.

The second issue involves reconciling the UN's prospective stewardship of Iraqi oil revenues into the next century with Iraq's obligations to its foreign creditors. To make the war reparations scheme work, the UN has decided to take custody of 100 per cent of Iraq's oil proceeds at the moment of every sale, and immunise them from attachment in any country. The UN will deduct the 30 per cent to be set aside for the compensation scheme, and then deliver the rest to Baghdad, still immune from attachment by international claimants.

At the same time, the commission must also struggle with the commands of UN Resolution 687, prohibiting Iraq from repudiating its foreign debt, and ordering that Iraq's payment of war losses must be "without prejudice" to its pre-existing foreign obligations.

If the UN immunises the proceeds of all of Iraq's oil sales into the next century, how will the banks, contractors and suppliers make recoveries? A short-term solution is unlikely.

Meanwhile, the high-stakes waiting game continues. A country that made its living by oil exports has sold nothing in more than a year and a half, except for a trickle delivered overland by truck to Jordan. The injured cannot receive any money until Iraq begins to sell oil again.

It will take a long time for all the injured to receive compensation. A 30 per cent garnishment of Iraqi oil could generate £3.5 billion a year, but the total losses are estimated at about £50 billion. Not everybody will be paid in full, but billions of pounds will be disbursed, and the injured will get back something for what they suffered. Measure that against what it looked like just a year ago this week.

Jeffrey A. Jannuzzo is an American lawyer with Coudert Brothers in New York. Richard J. Francis is a solicitor and the head of litigation with Beharrell, Thompson & Co, Coudert Brothers' associated solicitors' firm in London.

## Bargains with best results

An important aim of the criminal justice system should be the conviction of the guilty with speed, efficiency and certainty. This is why we should look again at plea-bargaining, which has two forms. One is the acceptance by the prosecutor, and sometimes the judge, of guilty pleas to offences less than those that have been or could be laid. The other is an arrangement by which the defendant knows what sentence is likely.

The first goes on every day in every criminal court and may happen before the case becomes effective in court. An informal nod from the defence solicitor will bring an agreed plea to assault causing actual bodily harm, so that the more serious charge of grievous bodily harm is not made.

When the case is listed, the same thing happens. A defendant offers guilty pleas, the prosecutor drops more serious charges and time and money are saved. Then there are the offences that the defendant admits though he has not been formally charged with them, and which he asks the court to consider when sentencing. The advantage to the defendant is that he will not be prosecuted later for them. The advantage to prosecution and police is that the offences become detected crimes in the statistics.

If the case gets to the crown court, the same happens. The charge is murder. There are extenuating circumstances. There may be a reasonable defence of provocation, which would reduce the charge to manslaughter. There may be a self-defence, which means acquittal. Both sides welcome a guilty plea to manslaughter. Murder carries only one sentence — life imprisonment. For manslaughter a judge can give probation or a conditional discharge. Most judges prefer to be consulted on the agreement, but there is nothing to force a prosecutor to go on with a murder charge.

There are three particular advantages to plea-bargaining as it is at present. It saves time and money. All defendants pleading guilty are entitled to expect a discount on the sentence. Much more importantly, there is an identifiable public benefit in the acceptance of criminal responsibility. The public interest is served by the acceptance of guilt. The

emotional strain of victims, relatives and witnesses is lessened if they know that a guilty plea is coming.

The true basis of discount for plea is unambiguous confession, not saving of time or cost.

There are many further advantages for the defendant. The witnesses do not give evidence. The judge tends not to be as affected when he reads written statements. The opportunity for skilful investigations is lost or lessened. The danger of conviction for a more serious offence is avoided. Even where a sentence is fixed — life for murder, for instance — release on licence may be brought forward, either because of the judge's private letter to the Home Office, or because a guilty plea is recorded in Home Office files.

The plainest case is murder plea-bargained down to manslaughter, but there are many others. A plea-bargain from causing grievous bodily harm with intent down to grievous bodily harm will cut sentence, often by years.

The defendant often wants and may need certainty, the ability to put his affairs in order, the knowledge that he can wipe the slate clean and a reasonable idea of what will happen to him.

My experience is that many defendants would plead guilty if they knew what the sentence was to be. A great number would plead guilty if they were certain of community service, probation or a suspended sentence. So why do we adamantly prevent it?

What safeguards do we need? First, there must be public acceptance of the value of plea-bargaining. Second, no pressure of time or circumstance should be put on the defendant. He must have time to take legal advice and not be hurried on the morning of his trial. Third, discussion between advocate and judge would have to be recorded and in the defendant's presence. Fourth, any abortive plea-bargain must not be mentioned by in any contested trial. Finally, the agreement should be in writing, signed by all parties.

GARETH WILLIAMS

The author, a QC, is the chairman of the Bar.

## The true basis of discount is confession

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## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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## Being Positive

A change has occurred in the attitude of employers towards candidates, a change to fundamental that all candidates should be aware of it. Whether recruiting for their commercial or their private client departments, employers now look for people who are committed to the view that a firm of solicitors must be run as a business.

This change has become apparent from the way employers describe to us their ideal candidates: 'good with clients', 'aware of their billings', or 'outgoing, and keen to develop client contacts'. Candidates have noticed changes in the way they are being interviewed. They are questioned about their level of billings, their contacts, and how they propose to bring in new clients. These questions are being asked even by employers who do not need more work. Interviewers generally are seeking to test candidates' business acumen.

Two candidates, one from industry, the other from private practice, were interviewed recently by the same firm. Both were asked about their followings. The candidate from industry, naturally, had no following, but he was the one who was offered the job because his response was the more positive. He came up with ideas about possible contacts and showed an understanding of the need for marketing. Our advice to all candidates in the present job-market, therefore, is to be positive, make the most of your contacts or following, and emphasise your commercial awareness. In these hard times, employers will take a liking to anyone who offers solutions.

Michael Chambers

## INDUSTRY &amp; BANKING

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## LONDON &amp; OVERSEAS

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## Commercial Lawyer: West London

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## PROVINCES

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12







Neil Harris explains how the Criminal Justice Act will change the role of those who look after offenders

## Penalty goal for probation officers

The Criminal Justice Act 1991, which will be implemented next October, is radically changing the work of probation officers. Keeping all but the most serious offenders out of prison and introducing a broader range of penalties through the courts, which probation officers must supervise, will increase their workload. The act will also change the role of officers, lead to more recruitment and changes in training.

The work of probation officers covers many activities. They prepare reports for magistrates and Crown courts on the background, character and attitude of offenders, and sometimes recommend which penalties best suit a particular case.

An offender under a probation order will see a probation officer regularly. The purpose is to discuss the offender's crime, assess its effects, tackle the problems that underlie it, and try to change their behaviour and help them to make some reparation to the community.

Probation officers have to ensure the orders of the court are carried out. If their "clients" go to prison, they keep in touch with both them and their families while the sentence is being served.

When prisoners are discharged on parole, the probation service has to supervise them. As officers of the court, members of the service have the difficult task of reconciling their roles of advising, assisting and befriending offenders with that of applying the court's decisions.

Under the new act, probation orders will be a sentence of the court and may be combined with a whole range of other punishments, such as community service work, confinement to hostels at certain times and attendance at day centres. The role of probation officers is now being extended to include the supervision of a wider range of punishments.

Supervising offenders to carry out the court's orders is not an easy task. There are more than 7,000 probation officers in England and Wales in 56 local areas administered by local authority probation committees. Every year, the Home

Office sponsors about 300 people to start training, which usually lasts two years and leads to the certificate of qualification in social work. This is gradually being replaced by the Diploma in Social Work.

Preparation includes probation studies, criminology, the law and psychology, and trainees are given two practice placements in such areas as prisons, probation offices and social services departments.



Welcoming the Act that will widen probation work: Tony Vass of Middlesex Polytechnic

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Preparation includes probation studies, criminology, the law and psychology, and trainees are given two practice placements in such areas as prisons, probation offices and social services departments.

Aspiring probation officers are usually expected to have gained relevant experience in a role that develops their awareness of social problems.

The Home Office, however, is already aware that the initial training that probation officers receive is insufficient for the role they are having to perform. The department is considering the setting up of specialist courses of continuing professional develop-

ment, and plans are in hand to develop new systems of in-service training.

At present, Home Office-sponsored trainees receive a grant of between £7,851 and £9,171, plus allowances. Salary on first appointment is about £14,055, depending on age, and rises to £17,928 in the main grade, which includes 80 per cent of the profession. Unlike many careers where entrants are considered too old as

they approach 30, this is one where mature people are welcome — most trainees are aged between 30 and 45.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, says: "Probation officers are concerned about the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act and the degree to which it will change their job. It will create new penalties, including electronic tagging."

Courts will be able to combine probation with a range of other measures, including fines, suspended sentences, compulsory community service and insistence that offenders live in a hostel.

"Just as with the introduction of the national curriculum into schools, the Home Office is laying down national standards in an attempt to control the probation service. There are now set standards for report writing, day centres, hostels, probation supervision and discharged prisoners, which take away much of the discretion probation officers once had."

Dr Tony Vass, the head of social work at Middlesex Polytechnic, disagrees. "The act should be welcomed for trying to do many of the things for which social workers have been calling for a long time," he says. "The legislation is a constructive effort to push forward alternatives to prison."

Information: Probation Service Division, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 9AA (071-273 3122). A useful booklet, *Face to Face*, and a list of courses (leaflet SP2) are also available from same address.



## Set fair for a career

DIRECTIONS Week '92, which is supported by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and runs at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London, from June 30 to July 4, will combine two career fairs this year. The first, The London Graduate Recruitment Fair, from June 30 to July 2, is organised by London University's careers advisory service.

The second Schools Fair, on July 3 and 4, is for school leavers going into higher education or employment and will provide career counselling covering degree choice, university and vocational training programmes.

Seminars and career workshops will enable all students to meet representatives from business and college.

Information: Schools' Fair hotline 071-782 6872

071-481 1066

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-782 7826



### Surrey Ambulance Service 2 Posts — Salary Circa £27,000 plus benefits

#### The Organisation

The Surrey Ambulance Service provides Accident & Emergency and Patient Transport Services to the Community of Surrey and North East Hampshire. The population served is 1.25 million over an area of 700 square miles. We employ 500 staff and have a revenue budget of £11 million. We are applying for NHS Trust Status and if successful will operate as an NHS Trust from April 1993. We are committed to providing high quality cost effective services to our patients.

#### The Job

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The successful candidate must hold the IPM qualification with at least 3 years generalist experience within a unionised environment. Other requirements will be the ability to:

- ▶ interact with all levels of staff
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- ▶ demonstrate application of fairness and consistency in employee relations

#### The Job

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The Director will be a key player

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- ▶ Promoting a reputable image for the Service in the market place.
- ▶ Ensuring the achievement of professional standards of service.
- ▶ Supporting other Directors and Senior Managers.
- ▶ Planning, co-ordinating and controlling the Engineering Services Division and Training Centre.

#### The Person

The successful candidate must demonstrate extensive management experience in a Senior position. Knowledge of marketing, experience of operating a business in the commercial sector and an understanding of the market opportunities within the NHS Ambulance Service.

#### The Package

Salary circa £27,000 plus lease car, Relocation Package, Occupational Sick Pay Scheme, NHS Pension Scheme (optional). An information pack is available from the Personnel Department on 0737 353333 ext. 2115. Comprehensive CVs should be submitted in confidence to Mr. M Foy, General Manager, Ambulance Service Headquarters, The Horseshoe, Baiters Lane, Banstead, SM7 2AS. Closing date: 19th March 1992.



## Chief Executive

### ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH

AICR is a charity which raises funds throughout the UK to support cancer research worldwide. Founded in 1979, it has now reached a size where the Trustees wish to appoint a full-time Chief Executive who has management experience and knowledge of fundraising or marketing.

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Closing date for completed applications: Friday 6th March 1992

Knightstone Housing Association is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all sections of the community.

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued from Page 10

### ELLISON & CO Matrimonial Lawyer Colchester

This leading East Anglian firm requires an experienced and enthusiastic Solicitor to head a busy and successful matrimonial department.

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Friends of the Earth is a powerful and influential environmental pressure group. Our priority is to campaign to bring about changes in practice and policy on a wide range of environmental issues.

Reporting to the Boards of Directors and Trustees, the Director we now seek will be, above all, responsible for the co-ordination and strategic direction of Friends of the Earth, ensuring that we remain a leading environmental organisation. It is a demanding role for a decisive change manager who can provide leadership, define priorities, develop strategies, implement policies, monitor activities and control budgets, as well as inspire people at all levels - local, national and international.

The Director is an energetic 'ambassador' for Friends of the Earth. An experienced team manager who can show us ample evidence of well-developed negotiation, communication and policy development skills. A professional whose record demonstrates a talent for turning an organisation's mission into reality.

We will want to see a minimum 3-year track record gained in a senior management capacity, and specific experience in the campaigning and voluntary action fields, together with a passion for the environment.

For an application form and job description, send a large SAE, quoting reference DIR1, to the Personnel Department, Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ or telephone 071-251 0875 (answerphone).

Closing date: 20 March 1992.

FOE has no smoking offices.

FOE is striving to be an equal opportunities employer.

Friends of the Earth

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

### Rushden, Northants to £21,000

As Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive of East Northamptonshire District Council, you will be involved in developing strategies to take ENDC beyond the 1990s.

You should therefore be a resourceful achiever who combines personal initiative and flexibility with a broad range of project-management and problem-solving skills. Whether your background is public or private sector, you must have a mature approach and the ability to gain the respect of professional managers.

This is an extremely varied and interesting role in a district that covers a broad variety of villages, small industrial towns and attractive rural areas. You could find yourself working on any of the Council's responsibilities, which include housing, planning, environmental health, public buildings, leisure and tourism, local taxation and the promotion of regional prosperity.

If you have a proven record of success backed by a degree or professional qualification, you may have the experience required to thrive in this high profile position. We shall attract our chosen candidate with a salary of up to £21,000 plus three performance increments and a full range of benefits.

For an information pack and application form, please contact the Personnel Section, East Northamptonshire District Council, Rushden Hall, Rushden, Northants NN10 9NJ. Tel: (0933) 412000 ext 5116. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 23/3/92.



EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL











Issue could raise more than £4 billion and will boost medical research

Trust to sell  
up to half  
of Wellcome

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE Wellcome Trust, the charitable organisation that funds medical research, has confirmed it is to float up to 48.5 per cent of Wellcome, the quoted pharmaceuticals group. The issue could raise up to £4.44 billion at yesterday's prices, making it one of the largest ever.

Wellcome Trust is the largest shareholder in Wellcome and owns 73.6 per cent of the drugs group, which numbers Zovirax, the herpes drug, and Retrovir, the anti-Aids drug, among its best sellers.

The trust intends to reduce its shareholding to below 50 per cent, but will continue to hold at least 25 per cent of Wellcome. News of the flotation wiped 60p off the share price, which closed at 1066p.

The exact size of the flotation, its date and the price at which the shares are offered will depend on market conditions. The beneficiary of the float will be medical research. Wellcome Trust says that for every £1 billion it realises from the flotation, an extra £35 million a year will be spent on medical research.

The minimum issue would raise at yesterday's prices is £2.14 billion. Last year, the trust awarded grants of £100 million for research. Analysts believe the group will raise about £2.5 billion from the flotation.

The flotation is dependent on approval by The Charity Commissioners and on an order from the court to allow the trust to modify the existing restrictions on the Trust's ability to sell shares in Wellcome. At present, the trust must maintain a share-

holding of at least 50 per cent of Wellcome and no shares can be sold without charity commissioners' approval.

The board of trustees is optimistic that this can be obtained by the end of April, which would put the share offer on course for the late summer. The trustees believe the earliest date for the flotation is July.

The issue will be the largest public offering since the second tranche of British Telecom shares was offered to the public last year. The flotation is likely to be similar to the BT offer, with a large

man of the trustees, defines as at least five years.

John Robb, chief executive of Wellcome, said he supported the international share offering, which, he said, would increase the marketability of the company's equity and provide a shareholder base that better reflects the international spread of the group's business. Some large institutional shareholders do not hold any Wellcome shares, others feel under-represented.

Mr Robb said Wellcome had no intention of raising any new money on the back of the trust's disposal. "We are cash positive and we do not need to raise any funds. There is no point asking our shareholders for funds if we don't have a specific use for them."

Mr Gibbs said the main reason for disposing of the Wellcome shares was to give the trust a higher return on its investment and increase the spread of its assets. Wellcome shares now represent 95 per cent of the trust's income-producing assets.

Wellcome shares yield 1½ per cent and Mr Gibbs says a better spread of investment could give a return of 4½ per cent to 4¾ per cent. The trust has been considering the issue of divesting Wellcome shares for some years, but only recently asked its merchant bank to handle the sale.

The exact nature of the offer has not been decided, but an offer for sale to the general public is likely to form part of it, Mr Gibbs said. Existing shareholders may also receive priority in the flotation.

Cash boost, page 4  
Comment, page 21



Healthy future: Roger Gibbs (left) with Dr Bridget Ogilvie, a director of Wellcome Trust, and John Robb

Coal chief  
attacks  
electricity  
economics

BY ROSS TIERMAN  
INDUSTRIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

NEIL CLARKE, the chairman of British Coal, has launched a scathing attack on the "upside-down economics" of the electricity industry which, he said, was leading to the replacement of coal-fired power stations with more expensive gas plants.

"It is utterly perverse that as British Coal is getting itself into an evermore competitive shape, the market at which we can aim is being fenced off from us," Mr Clarke told the Coal Industry Society in London.

He said that British industry could be benefiting through lower power prices from a 30 per cent fall in real terms, in British Coal prices. Instead, consumers had to pay a levy to support the state-owned nuclear power industry.

More alarming, though, was the impact that the planned construction of 7,000 megawatts of gas-fired generating capacity would have on the coal industry and power consumers.

"The dash for gas is not about competition giving lower prices, it is about competition to secure market share," he said.

Mr Clarke unleashed his criticism amid growing signs that British Coal has offered to sign a bulk deal with the generating companies National Power and PowerGen at about £40 a tonne — £10 more than the cost of imported coal, but below British Coal's present £42 a tonne average production cost. The generators, bent on increasing imports, are expected to treat the offer as a starting point.

Comment, page 21

Gooda Walker names stage  
'strike' over £101m cash call

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

ONLY 10 per cent of the recent £101 million cash call on 4,000 names on the Gooda Walker syndicates at Lloyd's had been paid by yesterday's deadline, according to the head of the Gooda Walker names' action group.

The response amounts to a virtual payment strike by names on syndicates 164, 290, 298 and 299, which have already lost a total of £238 million through catastrophe reinsurance underwriting by the Gooda Walker managing agency in the Eighties.

The latest cash call, issued in January by GW Run-Off, a firm set up to manage the winding-up of the syndicates, was made to reduce borrowings taken on to pay a flood of claims.

Alfred Doll-Steinberg, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, which represents 1,600 Gooda Walker names, said he would be

"most surprised if more than a small fraction paid their cash calls". The action group has advised its members that they need not pay the latest round of losses if they do not want to, because of possible legal flaws in the calls. About £21 million out of the previous £137 million cash call remains unpaid.

The failure of the cash calls means that GW Run-Off will be forced to apply to Lloyd's central fund to meet claims. It would then be up to Lloyd's, through the members' agencies, to recoup the payments by drawing down names' deposits held at the market.

About 400 Gooda Walker names are thought to be participating in an attempt to seek a court injunction preventing Lloyd's from touching deposits. Mr Doll-Steinberg said that if a "substantial number" of action group members received notice of deposit drawdowns,

the group would seek a separate injunction on different legal grounds.

He thought it unlikely that any drawdowns would be made before the conclusions of the enquiry, headed by Sir David Walker, the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, into the market's recent losses is known.

Lloyd's yesterday won a separate legal skirmish in America, when a Chicago judge overturned an earlier recommendation that a preliminary injunction be granted preventing Lloyd's from drawing down on letters of credit used as part of a deposit.

The three names concerned had alleged that the drawdown could not be enforced because their agreements with their members' agents and with Lloyd's effectively signed away their rights to the protection of American securities laws.

Bowater buys packers  
from slump-hit firms

BY MATTHEW BOND

BOWATER, the printing and packaging group, is paying £444 million for two speciality packaging companies that should more than double its sales of containers to the health and personal care sector.

The bulk of the consideration for the two businesses, DRG Packaging and Cope Allman Packaging, is being raised by a one-for-three rights issue, net proceeds of which will be £334 million.

Both purchases come from companies known to be anxious to reduce their debt levels. DRG Packaging is part of Pembridge Investments, which took over DRG for £700 million in 1989. Pembridge was subsequently refinanced, with Société de Banque Thomson emerging

as the majority shareholder. Quoteplan, the holding company that owns Cope Allman Packaging and which Bowater has acquired, is 49 per cent owned by ADT Group.

David Lyon, Bowater's chief executive, declined to describe either vendor as a forced seller, but said: "The businesses would not be available to us now had there not been a major recession."

ADT said the disposal of Cope Allman raised £117 million and represented a "significant step" in its debt-reduction programme.

Bowater's shares eased 3p to 765p, encouraged by the resilient 1991 results and by the board's comments that the acquisitions would enhance earnings. Pre-tax profits in the year to December

31 were marginally down on 1990 at £112.7 million. The final dividend has been increased by 8.7 per cent to 12.5p (11.5p), giving a total of 22p (21p).

The new shares being offered under the terms of the fully underwritten rights issue are priced at 605p, a 21 per cent discount to yesterday's opening price.

For both acquisitions, Bowater is receiving loan finance at attractive rates from parties linked to the vendors. SBT is providing a four-year loan of £157 million at 6.3 per cent to part-fund the purchase of DRG packaging; ADT Finance BV is giving a five-year loan of £50 million at 5 per cent.

Tempos, page 20

Corporate captains join forces

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

TWO of the most formidable names in international financial deals are teaming up to form a corporate finance business aimed at providing strategic advice to multinationals in Europe.

The new venture will bring together Lord Rothschild, who as Jacob Rothschild was active in bids and deals before he left the family bank to form what is now St James's Place Capital, and James Wolfensohn, one of America's most successful corporate finance advisers.

Mr Wolfensohn, an Australian by birth, ran corporate finance at Salomon Brothers before setting up his own company in 1981 and building a list of leading multinational clients. James D Wolfensohn Inc usually operates as a long-term adviser, taking an annual fee from its main clients and offering the sort of personal high-level advice traditionally associat-



Heading east: Paul Volcker, the new chairman

ed with the old days of London merchant banking. It has a joint venture in Japan with Fuji Bank.

J Rothschild, Wolfensohn & Co, the new venture, will be chaired by Paul Volcker, who

principals, including Lord Rothschild and his partner Sir Mark Weinberg. It is looking for chief executive, probably from the Continent. James D Wolfensohn's most important European client is Daimler-Benz. Lord Rothschild said: "I am quite pleased this venture is coming to London rather than Frankfurt."

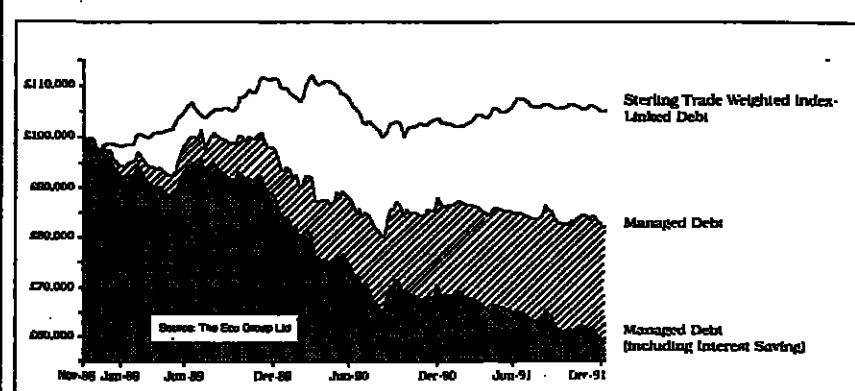
The venture will make a third arm to the financial service business being built up in St James's Place, joining fund management and new life assurance interests.

The aura of strategic long-term relationships and agreed deals built up by Mr Wolfensohn contrasts with Lord Rothschild's recent unsuccessful alliance with Sir James Goldsmith, which took a large opportunistic interest in Rankin Hovis and made a vain hostile bid to break up BAT Industries. Lord Rothschild explains that he never really liked hostile bids, although he still does not rule them out.

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## Contract imposes rigid rules on group to prevent cost overrun

## Foster and BAA to design new HK airport

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE contest to design the world's biggest civil engineering project, a new £10 billion airport for Hong Kong, has been won by a consortium including BAA, the airports group, and Sir Norman Foster and Partners, the architects. The three-member consortium will be headed by Mott Connell, of Hong Kong.

The £9.4 billion contract to design the passenger terminal, concourse and systems was won against competition from 30 rival consortia. The new airport is part of a massive programme of infrastructure spending in Hong Kong to expand the capacity of international transport links. Kai Tak, Hong Kong's existing airport, has a runway built into the harbour on reclaimed land and is expected to reach capacity within two years. Its replacement will be built on the island of Chek Lap Kok and will require the world's longest span bridge, to enable travellers to reach it. In addition, the programme calls for the construction of a new town of 200,000 people and new roads and rail links.

Chek Lap Kok is due to open in 1997 with capacity for 35 million passengers a year. Eventually, the airport will have a capacity of 87 million passengers and 9 million tonnes of cargo a year.

The fixed cost design contract, awarded yesterday, imposes rigid obligations on the design consortium. If the project looks to be running over-budget during the design phase, the consortium is

required to redesign the airport at its own expense to bring it back within budget. Sir Norman Foster and Partners and BAA were natural partners for the project. The leading architects designed a much-acclaimed new terminal at Stansted Airport, Essex, for BAA. The architects are also well known in the Crown Colony, where they were responsible for design of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation building.

BAA, as Britain's biggest airport operator, has been making great efforts to find outlets for its skills overseas. The group was recently appointed lead consultant by an Anglo-Japanese consortium building a £4 billion airport at Sepang, Malaysia.

The design contract is among the first of 72 contracts that the Provisional Airport Authority (PAA) plans to issue covering civil engineering, construction, building services and specialist systems. All of the contracts are expected to be fixed-price agreements with critical dates defined, and damages payable for late completion.

Richard Allen, the chief executive of the PAA, has said the authority's objective is "to have the airport built on time and within budget."

The next contracts, in April, are expected to cover terminal building systems, with air traffic control systems contracts awarded soon after.



Former glory: Sir Norman designed the Hongkong and Shanghai building

## UK to present Russian case for joining IMF

Mary Dejevsky says the Russians want to be judged by the West on their own merits

BRITAIN is to represent Russia in its application to join the International Monetary Fund, Norman Lamont said yesterday. The IMF's 22-member board of directors meets in Washington soon to discuss the proposal put forward by Russia in January.

The Chancellor said he was delighted that Britain, the first country to propose Russia's full membership of the IMF and the first to propose an April deadline for finalising membership procedures, had been approached by the Russian government to represent its interests at the meeting. If successful, Russia will be able to tap into the vast financial resources of the IMF to boost its transformation from former communist stronghold to a free-market economy.

However, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, warned European Community foreign ministers in Brussels yesterday that European nations must not make individual efforts to help the Commonwealth of Independent States, but allow the IMF to take the lead instead. "The EC should wait for the IMF's spring meeting, which is expected to admit Russia and the Ukraine," he said.

Russian officials in Moscow gave further details of the measures they are taking to comply with IMF conditions for membership, which include the removal of most subsidies on energy prices and the establishment of a fixed internal exchange rate for the rouble.

The only exception to the

freeing of energy prices will be domestic electricity and gas. Petrol prices will rise substantially, probably several times over. The price of crude oil will rise from 350 roubles a tonne to between 2,000 and 2,500 roubles a tonne.

The internal price of oil will not be allowed to rise to world price levels until 1993. In the interim, Russia is to impose a 50 per cent tax on oil exports. The prospect of the new tax has raised questions about existing deals with foreign companies that have agreed to supply machinery and prospecting expertise in return for oil. If the tax applies to such deals, their economic viability will be called into question.

No date has been set for the introduction of a fixed exchange rate for the rouble, which has three main rates. The rate of one rouble to one pound, at which foreign loans are calculated, the "commercial" rate of three roubles to one pound, which is still used by banks, even though it has officially been abolished by the Russian government, and the floating "market" rate, received by tourists and others exchanging cash at bank counters. The latter is about 120 roubles to the pound, down from a high of 190

roubles four weeks ago. The new fixed "investment" rate is likely to be somewhere between 35 and 85 roubles to the pound. According to Konstantin Kagalovsky, a Russian government adviser, the special "investment" rate will be abolished once the "market" rate stabilises sufficiently. As the fixed rate is introduced, the use of the dollar to settle accounts with Russian firms — a frequent practice by companies with any foreign customers living in Russia — will be declared illegal.

Mr Kagalovsky also insisted that Moscow wanted its stake in the IMF to be calculated independently from that of other members of the CIS and said that it should be fixed at about 4 per cent of capital.

He said it would be "professionally wrong and politically harmful" to calculate Russia's quota on the basis of an "artificial coefficient" relating to the former Soviet Union.

Mr Kagalovsky's insistence on this point suggested there might be some disagreement either with the IMF on the calculation of the Russian quota, or with other republics of the former Soviet Union, in particular the Ukraine, which has applied separately for IMF membership.

Any dispute is likely to derive from differing estimates of the value of trade between the republics, which must now be regarded as foreign trade. Such calculations are extremely difficult to make in retrospect.

## Lex sells to Arrow of America

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

LEX Service, one of Britain's largest vehicle distributors, has sold its European electronics businesses to Arrow Electronics, America's second-largest electronics distributor, for £33 million.

This deal completes Lex's withdrawal from this business and was widely antic-

ipated after Arrow acquired Lex's American electronics operations for \$164 million in shares and cash last June. At the same time, Lex put its European electronics companies up for sale.

The agreement relating to the European businesses was agreed in principle last October. Arrow, which has its headquarters in Melville, New York, will buy the British and French electronics companies, Lex Electronics UK and Lex Electronics SA, while Specie Electronics, Arrow's German affiliate, will buy Saco, Lex's German

electronics distribution subsidiary. The European subsidiaries had sales of £95.6 million and a trading profit of £1.1 million in 1990.

The acquisition price represents a 54 million premium over the net asset value of the companies. Lex receives £21 million in cash, with the remainder in the form of debt certificates.

Lex will have a shareholding in Arrow of 34 per cent after the disposals. The receipts are being used to reduce Lex's debt. The company has suffered badly in the recession.

## Accountants asked for higher subscriptions

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants is asking members to agree big increases in its £100 base annual subscription. The increases would counter growing deficits and fund improved lobbying, speeding-up of disciplinary procedures and advice services.

Subscriptions of practising accountants would be raised by 29 per cent in 1993 and by a further 12.5 per cent above inflation in each of the following two years. The English

institute wants to step up lobbying in Brussels and possibly open an office there to influence EC rules and directives. Andrew Colquhoun, chief executive, said: "We can no longer just lobby the DTT."

Two thirds of members would have to vote for the increase. Spending overruns on net income of about £11 million have reduced the institute's cash balances to a seasonal low point of £2.4 million from £5.5 million in 1989.

## Devolution will be taxing for Scottish oil

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ANY devolution of tax-raising powers to a Scottish assembly in the wake of the next election could seriously upset output of oil and gas from the North Sea.

County NatWest analysts, based in Edinburgh, believe the creation of separate tax regimes in different parts of the UK continental shelf could remove the fiscal and political stability which have underpinned the oilfield's development. In which case, they say, oil companies might be tempted to divert investment to other areas of the world where the environment is less hostile, and the oil easier to recover.

But Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, should not despair. Provided that lesson is taken on board, the analysts' report makes pretty encouraging reading for the separatists. During the lifetime of the next parliament, it concludes, North Sea tax revenues are likely to reach £18 billion, in 1992 money.

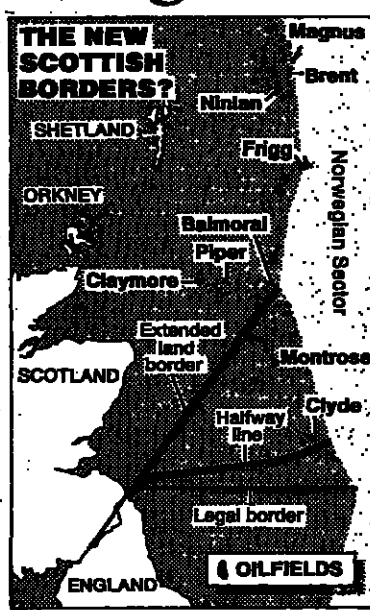
Scottish negotiators will know that there has scarcely been a better moment to redirect the revenue flow since

North Sea production got into its stride in 1979.

North Sea tax revenues peaked at £12 billion in 1984-5. During the lifetime of the current parliament, about £18 billion of oil and gas tax revenue has poured into the coffers of the Treasury. But thanks to a combination of safety work and rock-bottom oil prices, the North Sea provided John Major with little more than £1 billion last year, the report concludes.

If that calculation is right, Mr Major could sign away the North Sea to the Scots tomorrow, slap a halfpenny on income tax — or cut tax by a halfpenny less than he intends in the Budget — and no one south of the border would notice.

With North Sea output heading for a new peak, and a recovery in oil prices likely by the middle of the decade, the longer devolution is delayed, the more pain it will cause south of the border. For that reason alone, there is likely to be some pretty hard bargaining if Mr Major, or his successor, ever sits down across a



Source: County NatWest Woodhead  
table from the devolutionists to negotiate away North Sea tax revenues. In such circumstances, the cartog-

raphers will have a field day. The current administrative division, north of which Scottish law applies, is hardly likely to prove an acceptable boundary, since it would give the Scots pretty much everything but the East Anglian gas fields.

No matter how the lines are drawn, it is hard to justify saving much for the English. But the Treasury would have some powerful negotiating weapons. Under the current tax regime, exploration, and rig removal costs, can be offset against tax already paid.

The Treasury has had that tax, and spent it. If the Scots mean to go on offering tax relief, they might like to share the burden with the Treasury, in exchange for some income. If they cancel the tax relief, they would be likely to lose the exploration and production development work on which their future revenues would depend.

Politics was always the art of the possible. That will be no less true in the North Sea than in the Crown Office building in Edinburgh, where a Scottish assembly may yet, one day, be convened.

## Chelsea wins reprieve on deadline

BY MATTHEW BOND

LAWYERS acting for Chelsea Football Club have secured a two-week extension on its deadline to pay £22.85 million to Cabra Estates, its landlord, or face eviction.

Last week, after its successful High Court action, Cabra gave Chelsea until March 12 to pay for the Stamford Bridge ground.

Yesterday, however, Cabra said it was quite happy to agree to the later date of March 26.

Despite the legal agreement, there seems little likelihood of Cabra actually receiving the money for Stamford Bridge on that day. Chelsea is planning an appeal against the court ruling.

Cabra has already said it will put the club in receivership if it does not receive its money by the agreed date.

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Brent Walker has had interim financing arrangements extended to March 31. It says it needs more time to restructure its £1.5 billion of debts.

## Security Services

**SHARES** in Security Services and Securicor, known as the Securicor twins, have shown a supercharged performance since the beginning of the year. They are up by around a third, while the FT-SE 100

to Vodafone, its cellular rival. New management at Cellnet

□ Sydney — The market closed higher after one of the year's quietest trading days in which only a small amount of spending was needed to push prices up. The all-ordinaries index closed 11.3 points higher at 1,625.4, the rise led by the banks and industrial shares. (Reuters)

| Mar 2<br>midday | Feb 28<br>close | Mar 2<br>midday | Feb 28<br>close | Mar 2<br>midday | Feb 28<br>close |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
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Midland Bank continued to make headway in the wake of the recent better than expected figures, climbing 11p to 278p. Barclays also firmed 1p to 362p. National Westminster 4p to 315p and Lloyds 7p to 420p.

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## Welcome moves for Wellcome

It was a flourish of the stock market to wipe £500 million off the value of Wellcome shares on the news of the trust's share sale in view of frequent City complaints about scarcity of Wellcome stock. Only 25 per cent of the group, capitalised at more than £9 billion, is freely available at present.

The fall in the price was partly due to profit taking before what will be a substantial private sector issue. Wellcome shares have more than doubled to 1066p in the last 12 months, and the trust's timing appears impeccable. But there was also needless concern over rumours that the issue would be priced at a premium to shares now traded in the market. Institutional shareholders are more used to issues priced at a discount.

Yesterday Fleming's was doing its best to knock the "premium" rumour, a crazy idea at the best of times, on the head. For the issue to work it will have to be priced at a level close to the existing shares.

After price, the second main concern is timing. The trust is saying July at the earliest but even that may be a optimistic. Advisers appear to have been brought on board only in the last month and an international all-singing all-dancing issue of this size and complexity is not going to be put together overnight, even assuming the Court and the Charity Commissioners give their agreement straight away. Then there are the stiff American regulatory hurdles which could also affect the issue and the stock market. The trust has made it clear that this is no forced sale and if the market conditions are not right it will simply wait. Hopefully the wait will not be too long. The issue makes sense for the trust, sense for Wellcome and sense for medical research. It also makes sense for the battalions of bankers, lawyers and advisers who stand to make hefty fees. Perhaps it is too much to hope that they remember the shares they are selling belong to a charity and tailor the fees accordingly.

## Low power

John Wakeham may be hoping that energy policy does not figure largely in the election campaign. To many laymen, our legacy from the past looks like an enormous muddle and in the hands of opposition spokesmen the current lack of direction is a pure gold on the hustings. The elephantine nuclear programme has produced at vast expense a mouse in the shape of a levy on consumers which pushes up the cost of power. Attempts to introduce competition from foreign coal could drastically reduce the size of a domestic industry which produces secure, if more expensive supplies, which should nevertheless have some place in any balanced portfolio of fuels for generation. Finally superclean gas, however environmentally favourable, may well be producing more expensive energy than old fashioned coal fired stations due in part to special arrangements made to facilitate the privatisation of the regional electricity companies. The power generation industry frequently tells anyone who cares to listen that in real terms the cost of electricity is bound to rise over the next few years.

British industry might have expected a better outcome than the above which is probably a fair approximation to the way that government critics would describe the current state of play. In the days ahead, Mr Wakeham would do well to prepare some more favourable explanations if indeed they are possible. Otherwise he will be open to the charge that the much vaunted thrust of privatisation in search of increased competition is falling miserably to deliver the obvious by-product — falling real electricity prices.

# UN flies down to Rio to judge the greener than green competition

George Brock reports from Brussels on the race to boost green credentials without pushing economies deeper into recession

President Bush announces tighter controls on chemicals that damage the ozone layer. Within a few days, the European Community brings forward its own deadline for the switch to ozone-friendly substances — noting in passing that its new rules are a little tougher than the controls that the American president has just passed.

Last Friday, David Trippier, the environment minister met representatives of British industry to see if Britain can go even faster than the Community. There is something going on here, and the leap-frogging policy changes are not just caused by alarming new research showing that the hole in the ozone is becoming larger.

Competition between states for good green credentials is not because of what the entire environmental world simply calls Rio.

The United Nations conference on environment and development (UnCED) in Rio de Janeiro, to be held in June, is turning into a contest of Olympic proportions between governments. They are lining up to show they are greener than the opposition, if by only a shade.

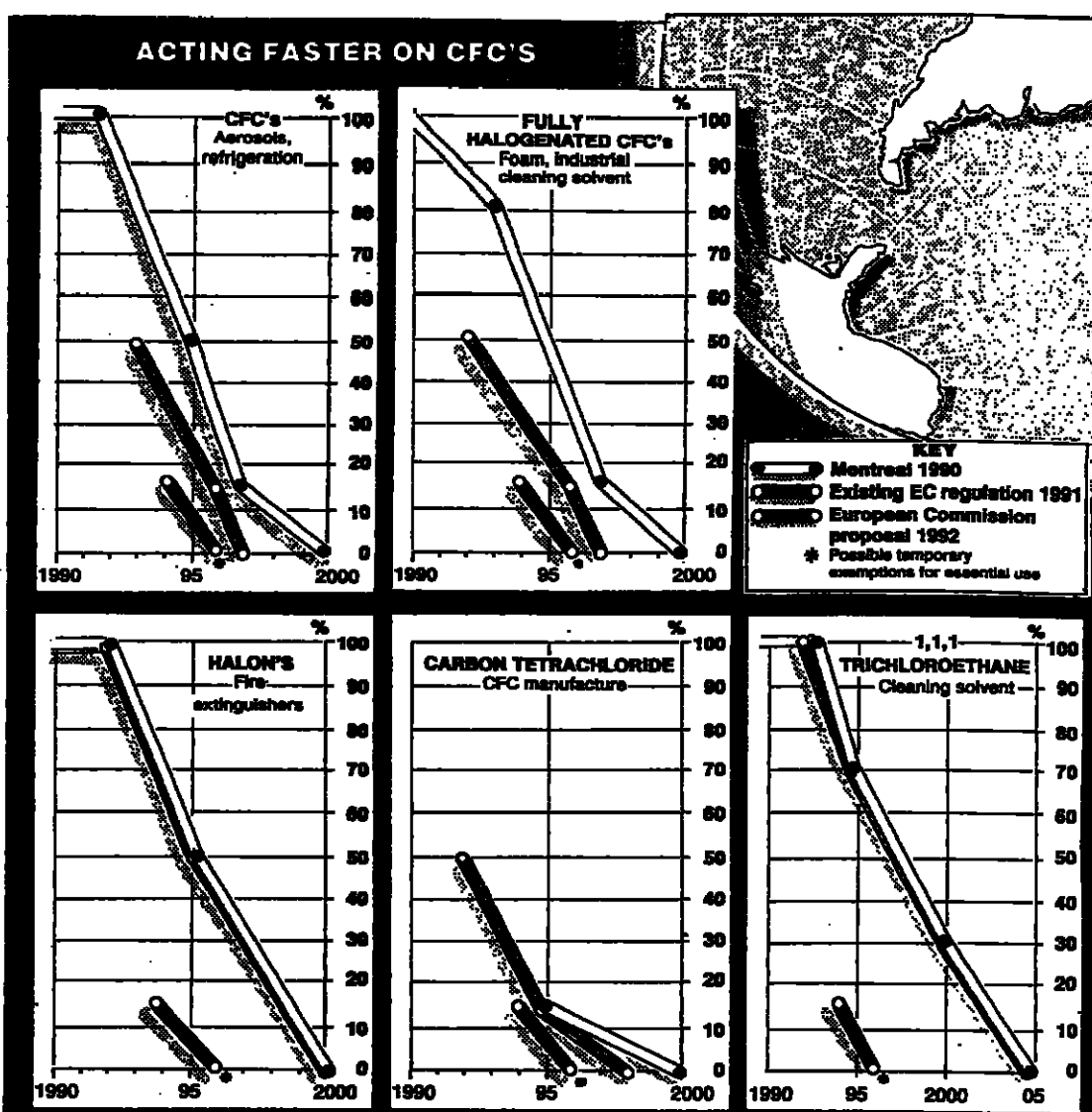
There are no prizes for moving so far ahead of the others that your economy is crippled by costs not shared by others. The North wants to extend tough anti-pollution rules to the Third World. The South wants financial help to catch up.

Will the conference accelerate the drive towards energy taxes? Europe is tiptoeing towards fiscal incentives to cut fuel consumption. America is wary and Japan is waiting for others to move first. Rio may be for politicians, but it has huge potential effects on business and industry. As the conference deadline approaches, recession is slowing some of last year's radicalism.

Maurice Strong, the Canadian businessman in charge of Rio, has modestly billed the conference as "the most important meeting in the history of humanity." Whether the assembled ministers can change the course of events is less clear. The preparations for the conference, both intellectual and logistical, are falling behind.

Pressure groups will have their own conference alongside that of the government leaders. About 20,000 people are likely to attend. American Indians who were invited to stay in reproduction tepees have demanded hotel rooms instead. Green groups have demanded the air conditioning be ozone-friendly and the food is politically correct. Unfortunately the head of the pressure group conference was mugged on the day that he arrived in Rio.

Most galling of all for the EC, its projected, European Environment



Agency may be upstaged by a suggestion from President Bush for a world environment agency. The European body has never come into existence because the French government is refusing to agree the site for its headquarters.

The momentum taking governments towards tough European green taxes is slackening. Last year, Carlo Ripa di Meana, the European Community's environment commissioner, began edging Europe towards a huge energy tax of \$10 a barrel of oil or equivalent in the late Nineties.

He argues that it is the only way the Community's commitments can be met. The EC has promised carbon dioxide emissions will be levelled off at 1990 levels by the year 2000 — Britain has given itself a five-year extension — in the global attempt to cut down on gases that contribute to global warming. Signor Ripa di Meana conceded, however, the other day that the only agreement that he will be able to pack in his briefcase for the Rio conference will be that the Community's states are "considering" a tax.

Equally importantly, the Community will make the introduction of a carbon tax conditional on similar taxes being levied in America and Japan. Until last month, this crucial point had been left vague. But as a Community environment ministers

meeting in Estoril, Signor Ripa di Meana finally said that any unilateral introduction of a tax would be "very costly".

He said: "I could not now frankly suggest that. If we face a blank refusal (from America and Japan) then we would have to reconsider".

Last year, Signor Ripa di Meana was talking of Europe taking "leadership on the world environmental stage" from America. A definite decision to impose carbon taxes would be a "turning point" in EC efforts to repair eco-damage. But the course of the ensuing debate inside the Community has revealed some of the deepest philosophical gulfs that currently split the 12 states.

Much of the opposition to a carbon tax was expected to come from Britain, always touchy about the EC moving in on fiscal matters, but Britain has merely asked the same questions posed by most other governments: how much will it cost? The Spanish government not only asked that question but said that any likely answer would be too high.

Madrid has served notice that since the weakest European economies are going to have to struggle to keep up with the leaders of the drive towards a single currency, they are not going to saddle themselves with

the bills for assuaging the environmental guilt of richer northern states. The EC commission, which has not yet issued a detailed carbon tax proposal, is itself divided between the rival claims of economic growth and environmental rescue.

Signor Ripa di Meana, with few allies but many millions of citizens behind him, argues that ideas of economic progress must be adapted to ecological prudence. Jacques Delors and a majority of his colleagues are reluctant to hobble European industry with extra costs just as the 1992 single market may bring economic equality with America and Japan closer.

Similar debates take place between the government departments in Whitehall. Michael Heseltine's environment department is convinced that global warming cannot be tackled without a fundamental switch to fiscal methods. The Treasury is instinctively sceptical and waiting to judge the fine print of the EC commission's draft directive — which is due to be published at the end of April — and its possible effects on industrial costs.

Public protest and consumer pressure on the environment tends to focus on scientists' most recent revelations. The year opened with a batch of measurements of the hole in the ozone layer over the Antarctic that showed it was bigger than

previously thought. Researchers are now confident enough to put out figures on the likely global increases in eye cataracts and skin cancers. Weird and previously unknown mutations in small creatures and plants are being reported by scientists in Chile.

At the end of last month, EC environment ministers agreed in principle to a new schedule for eliminating chlorofluorocarbons and substitutes by the end of 1995, coming into line with an initiative taken a few weeks before by Britain, Denmark and Germany. In this field, the scientific argument is over and the bargaining is about cost and speed. The schedule-makers find large multinationals adapt quickly and profitably, to new rules but smaller firms cannot keep up.

The bulk of CFCs are used in refrigerators, but other "ozone-depleters" are used in fire-fighting equipment, insulating foam and for cleaning precision engineering and circuit boards. The United Nations has just released a study analysing the practical implications of trying to eliminate every ozone-depleting substance within the next few years. The study, co-chaired by a British environment department official, concludes that even in developing countries consumption of virtually all CFCs and halons can be ended by 1995-7. Phasing them out too fast may, however, bring other environmental risks or increase risks to human health. Substitutes and alternatives, the report cautions, should be submitted to rigorous testing and need to be available in adequate quantity.

ICI, the largest manufacturer of CFCs and substitutes in Britain, estimates that, in this country alone, the cost of the change for producing and consuming firms is between £10 billion and £15 billion. Mike Harris, the regulations manager in the firm's fluorchemicals division, says ICI can close its CFC plants by the end of 1995 and that phase-out can be speeded up in some areas. But he says that environmentally friendly substitutes are currently available for only 5 per cent of demand.

That poses serious problems for changing the medical aerosols used by asthmatics. New sprays, which do not use CFCs, have been designed but they have to pass years of safety testing before production can start. There are difficulties in producing a safe substitute for chemicals to clean aircraft gyroscopes. No civil airliner may take off from a British airport without a halon fire extinguishing system. Adequate substitutes are not yet available in quantity.

"It is not impossible to find other chemicals for these essential uses," says Mr Harris. "It is worthwhile spending that money. In the long term it is a good investment. Right now, in the middle of the biggest recession of the century, I don't think that our governments are going to be subsidising the change. Where do you find £10-£15 billion? ICI might spend 1 or 2 per cent of that, leaving the remaining 98 per cent to be found by smaller firms. Some of them are still in blissful ignorance of what is happening."

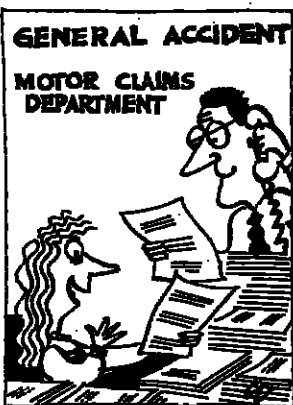
## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Bowater trio win by a neck

NORMAN Ireland, chairman of Bowater and a man not normally known for his sartorial elegance, shocked the City yesterday when he spoke about his £444 million acquisition and £333 million rights issue — by abandoning his customary wool waistcoat and appearing in a lurid paisley and floral tie. The effect was magnified by the presence of finance director Michael Hartnell, in an equally loud orange and yellow neck tie, and chief executive David Lyon, who was similarly attired. The catalyst behind this dramatic transformation was Lyon's Alabama-born wife Lillis. "She has been privy to all that has been going on here for several months and she thought that we had all had such a hard time that, when the deal was finally complete, we ought to feel good about ourselves," explains Lyon. "She went off and carefully selected one tie for each of us, and the first I knew of it was on Sunday night." The delighted Ireland cast off his waist coat at the meeting so that the tie could be fully appreciated. "He particularly likes daffodils but Lillis couldn't find a tie with daffodils on it — so he had to settle for yellow flowers instead," Lyon adds.

### Back to the Mile

THE partnership that runs Phoenix Securities — the corporate finance company that John Craven, chairman of Morgan Grenfell, helped to found — will have its numbers boosted to seven next week, when Michael Butt returns to



"Here's a new one — run into by a motorway bridge..."

the Square Mile with a vengeance. Butt, aged 49, and the ex-chairman of Sedgwick, the insurance and broking arm of Sedgwick Group, resigned from his subsequent position as the chairman and chief executive of Eagle Star, BAT's insurance subsidiary, in September. A comment in the *Financial Times* Lex column at the time described him as a "victim of a belated reaction by a parent struggling to vindicate a flawed overall strategy." Butt, well regarded in the City, joins Phoenix Partnership as an equity partner. "It's my 50th birthday on May 25 and I wanted to get this all resolved before then," says Butt. In his new corporate finance guise he will, he adds, concentrate on the insurance and broking sector. "It is certainly a change, but in a way I am going back to my roots," says Butt. His very first job, post Oxford, was with Samuel Montagu, but he was swiftly transferred to Bland Welch, its insurance division, which

eventually merged with Sedgwick Forbes. The introduction to Phoenix came, indirectly, via Insead, Europe's answer to Harvard Business School. Craven is chairman of Insead's council and Andrew Large, a Phoenix non-executive director — due to become chairman of the SIB in June — is also an Insead old boy.

### Old school ties

THE old school tie network is alive and thriving in, of all places, Liverpool. Eric Tomlinson, aged 44, co-founder of Silkham, the Liverpool investment management and advice group — which has a second office in London — has been left to run the firm on his own, after the departure of his partner Michael Hope. Hope has joined another Liverpool firm, Rathbone, taking many clients with him. Undeterred, Tomlinson, in his hour of need, has recruited the services of Ralph Osborne, a former UBS Phillips & Drew gilt-edged market maker. He reveals that Osborne, once a partner of Liverpool gits jobber Moulstale — which P&D bought — went to school with him, at the Liverpool Institute. Another fellow pupil, even better known, was Beattie Paul McCartney. "I was in the first year when he was in the sixth," recalls Tomlinson. Osborne, in his new job, will be turning his back on gits and concentrating instead on fund management. "We want to expand our client base through personal contacts," explains Tomlinson. "Yes, we are looking to recruit more people, but they will have to be people who can bring clients with them."

CAROL LEONARD

### Market forces benefit consumers

From F.G. de L. Rutherford  
Sir, Mr Potter (Business News, February 28) discourages the importation of cheap coal because he feels that PowerGen should use the more expensive British coal. Why? So that they are forced to charge more for electricity and put up the costs of those industries that are profitable? To deny access to the cheapest products is to defraud the consumer. If there are to be casualties in our moribund domestic industries, it is because their time has come. The financial and

### No regrets

From J.W. Smith  
Sir, Much has been said and written about the blessings of wider share ownership — no doubt with a view to strengthening the free enterprise system. But can the wage earner confidently invest hard-earned savings, when there is so much fraud and incompetence on the part of those with whom he is encouraged by the government to entrust money? Nor is any safeguard really provided by "independent" auditors, non-executive directors and accountants.

### Back to basics

From W.R. Greatrex  
Sir, Auto manufacturers are losing money, cutting back their labour forces and yet still speaking of "increasing productivity" as the solution. Does one realise that, as cars have become better-made, they therefore, with careful maintenance, can last longer? Style means much less than reliability and economy, and the greatest economy of all is to retain one's present car for another year, or two, or five; ask the parents of any young family striving to live within their means; ask

human resources thus released can then go into other enterprises producing goods and services that people actually want to buy.

It is depressing that the simple economics of the free market are so misunderstood in this country. The people of the Far East have profited hugely by our myopia; the newly liberated industries of Eastern Europe are next in line to benefit.

Yours faithfully,  
F.G. de L. Rutherford,  
Friese Greene House,  
7 Chelsea Manor St, SW3.

To date, I, as an ordinary shareholder, have not heard or read a single word of explanation or regret from the directors or chief executives of British and Commonwealth Holdings or the Maxwell Group of companies for the loss suffered by their many shareholders. And the government and professional bodies seem helpless.

Yours faithfully,  
J.W. SMITH,  
20 Sydney Road, W13.

any pensioner, of whom there will be more and more each year. Thus the market for new cars in the developed countries will continue to shrink. One solution might be for a British company to switch production to one basic, no-frills product (as Henry Ford did with his Model T) and attempt to capture the Eastern European market, before Japan does.

Yours truly,  
W.R. GREATREX,  
The Highlands,  
Great Down,  
Symonds Yat,  
Herefordshire.

### Treasures from the Revenue

From Mrs C.M. Bingham  
Sir, I treasure (despite his consequent fees) a recent letter from my accountant, commenting on the third or fourth revised assessment of my tax liability, and containing the memorable phrase "needless to say, the Revenue have got it wrong again".

Now I have added a gem of a different kind, from the Revenue itself.

On January 13, I wrote by first class post to Cumberland, enclosing a very large cheque. On February 24, I received a form letter, dated February 11. It begins, "Thank you for your communication of (blank)". The box ticked below is "The matter is receiving attention and a reply will be issued in due course".

One wonders how much it cost, in paper, postage and clerical time, to send this entirely useless letter.

Yours faithfully,  
C.M. BINGHAM,  
Word Skills,  
24A Church Road,  
Chesham, Bucks,  
Chesham.

### Capital choice

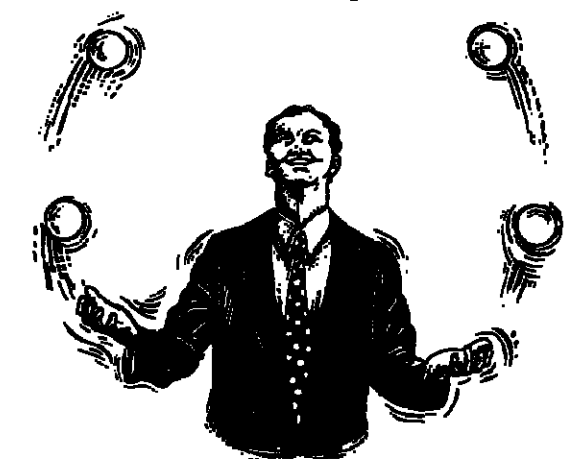
From R.W. Fyfe  
Sir, I welcome Professor Eilon's letter (Business News, February 27) proposing to equate capital allowances with depreciation provisions. However, this would have to be an optional alternative to the present allowances, which were introduced in 1946 when, as now, capital expenditure needed to be encouraged but profits might not justify large depreciation provisions.

Yours sincerely,  
R.W. FRYER,  
8 Oak Hill Lane, Ipswich.

## HOW WELL PREPARED

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# Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum and check your share price movements on this page daily. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No | Company         | Group       | Share Price |
|----|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1  | Land Sec        | Property    | 1.10        |
| 2  | Andrews Syle    | Industrial  | 1.10        |
| 3  | Swirey          | Building/Rd | 1.10        |
| 4  | MTL East        | Electrical  | 1.10        |
| 5  | Am New Z        | Electrical  | 1.10        |
| 6  | West Scotland   | Building/Rd | 1.10        |
| 7  | South Essex     | Property    | 1.10        |
| 8  | Hay (Norman)    | Industrial  | 1.10        |
| 9  | Co Federal      | Property    | 1.10        |
| 10 | Hampden Ham     | Property    | 1.10        |
| 11 | LASMO           | Oil, Gas    | 1.10        |
| 12 | P & O Del       | Transport   | 1.10        |
| 13 | Chico           | Industrial  | 1.10        |
| 14 | Pendragon       | Motor/Air   | 1.10        |
| 15 | Merchand Retail | Retail      | 1.10        |
| 16 | Powell Duffryn  | Transport   | 1.10        |
| 17 | Alcon           | Industrial  | 1.10        |
| 18 | Spelling Rm     | Industrial  | 1.10        |
| 19 | Logica          | Electrical  | 1.10        |
| 20 | Ulster          | Oil, Gas    | 1.10        |
| 21 | Statens Metall  | Industrial  | 1.10        |
| 22 | Wolfsden D      | Industrial  | 1.10        |
| 23 | Plasma          | Industrial  | 1.10        |
| 24 | Daily News Int  | Printing    | 1.10        |
| 25 | Mid West        | Retail      | 1.10        |
| 26 | Kwik-Fit        | Motor/Air   | 1.10        |
| 27 | St Ives         | Printing    | 1.10        |
| 28 | St Ives         | Printing    | 1.10        |
| 29 | Ocean Wilson    | Transport   | 1.10        |
| 30 | Manpower (S)    | Retail      | 1.10        |
| 31 | Thyphoo         | Transport   | 1.10        |
| 32 | Wespac          | Motor/Air   | 1.10        |
| 33 | Amber Day       | Duplex/Site | 1.10        |
| 34 | AAAF Int        | Duplex/Site | 1.10        |
| 35 | Meper Int       | Building/Rd | 1.10        |
| 36 | Wain            | Property    | 1.10        |
| 37 | Asbury (East)   | Duplex/Site | 1.10        |
| 38 | Woodside        | Oil, Gas    | 1.10        |
| 39 | Vale            | Electrical  | 1.10        |
| 40 | Barclay         | Motor/Air   | 1.10        |
| 41 | London          | Motor/Air   | 1.10        |
| 42 | Blair Dancy     | Leisure     | 1.10        |
| 43 | Strong & Fisher | Shoe/Ln     | 1.10        |

© Times Newspaper Ltd. Total

Please take into account any values signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | Total |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
|     |     |     |     |     |     |       |

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

# BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 311     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 312     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 313     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 314     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 315     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 316     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 317     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 318     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 319     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 320     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# BREWERS

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 321     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 322     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 323     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 324     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 325     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 326     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 327     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 328     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 329     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 330     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# BUILDING, ROADS

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 331     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 332     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 333     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 334     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 335     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 336     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 337     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 338     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 339     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 340     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# INDUSTRIALS

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 341     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 342     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 343     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 344     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 345     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 346     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 347     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 348     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 349     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 350     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# SHORTS (under 5 years)

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 351     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 352     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 353     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 354     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 355     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 356     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 357     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 358     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 359     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 360     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 361     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 362     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 363     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 364     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 365     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 366     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 367     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 368     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 369     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 370     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# LONGS (over 15 years)

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 371     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 372     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 373     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 374     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 375     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 376     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 377     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 378     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 379     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 380     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# Share offers depress prices

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 24. Dealings end on Friday, 5Contango day March 9. Settlement day March 16. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 381     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 382     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 383     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 384     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 385     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 386     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 387     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 388     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 389     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 390     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 391     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 392     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 393     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 394     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 395     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 396     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 397     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 398     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 399     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 400     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# ELECTRICITY

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 401     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 402     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 403     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 404     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 405     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 406     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 407     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 408     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 409     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 410     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# FINANCE, LAND

| 1991/92 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net  | Yld | P/E  |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|------|-----|------|
| 411     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 412     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 413     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 414     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 415     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 416     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 417     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 418     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 419     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 420     | 110  | 108 | Abey    | 1.10  | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |

# FINANCIAL TRUSTS

|     |     |    |      |      |      |     |      |
|-----|-----|----|------|------|------|-----|------|
| 234 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 235 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 236 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 237 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 238 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 239 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
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| 241 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 242 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 243 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
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| 245 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 246 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 247 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 248 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 249 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 250 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
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| 281 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 282 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 283 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 284 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
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| 291 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
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| 295 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 296 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 297 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 298 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 299 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |
| 300 | 100 | 98 | Abey | 1.10 | 1.10 | 4.3 | 25.8 |











South Africa pay for wayward bowling in cricket World Cup

# Sri Lankans have a field day

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK  
IN WELLINGTON

WHAT next, I wonder? Six days after beating Australia by nine wickets in Sydney, South Africa lost here yesterday to Sri Lanka. In less than a week, they have run the whole gamut of their emotions.

There was no questioning the merit of Sri Lanka's victory. They bowled and fielded better than the South Africans, and paced their innings well enough to get home by three wickets with one ball to spare. Such surprises as this are the very essence of the World Cup, and, for a little while anyway, Sri Lanka can rejoice in a share of second place in the table, even if they have played one match more than all the others.

No Sri Lankan side can have fielded better than this one did yesterday. The South Africans said, before going out to field themselves, that they would be delighted to match them.

Jayasuriya held two splendid catches at short extra cover. Hathurusinghe a stinging one in the deep, and Mahanama threw out Richardson with an exhilarating return. The enthusiasm and confidence were to be seen spreading through the side. Aravinda de Silva, the Sri Lanka captain, described it as one of their greatest wins, and he was undoubtedly right.

Only Kuiper, Kirsten and Rhodes looked at all like getting on top of the Sri Lankan bowling. Wessels, who had put Sri Lanka in, batted too long for too few. After 35 overs he had made only 19, and when at last he began to quicken up he was soon caught and bowled. With Kirsten having driven Kalpage, the off-spinner, to long-off two balls earlier, South Africa had two new batsmen at the wicket with only 14 overs left and a mere 114 runs on the board.

They thought the pitch very slow, as they had in Auckland when losing to New Zealand on Saturday. This was not a complaint so much as a submission. A fair degree of improvisation was called for, and on the day the batsman to have the best touch for that was Ratanunga, who came in when Sri Lanka were themselves falling behind the clock and played the match-win-



Sweeping all before him: Ratanunga, the man of the match, guides Sri Lanka to victory yesterday

ning innings. With seven needed from the last over, bowled by Donald, Ratanunga had the good sense to see that Kalpage was run out off the first ball when a middle cut; he lofted the second over wide mid-on for four, took a single off the next, and then kept his fingers crossed. In the event, Ratanunga hit the fifth ball through the covers for four.

Earlier, Mahanama had taken his aggregate for this World Cup to 207 at an average of 69, which puts him at the head of the field. Kirsten comes second with 186 runs, also from three innings. By surviving Donald's blistering opening spell

of three for 14 in five overs, Mahanama allowed Ratanunga to find the possibilities he did when he came to the wicket. But in the final analysis, almost as much of a reason for South Africa's defeat as the batting of Mahanama and Ratanunga was the waywardness of the South African bowlers. Donald bowled eight wides, and there were five other wides as well as four no-balls. This gave Sri Lanka three extra overs of batting, and when South Africa's support bowling tails away as it does, that decided it.

□ Sydney: India and Pakistan meet for the first time in World Cup competition here

tomorrow, with India needing to win to keep alive hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals. Pakistan hope to have Imran Khan back to lead the side after missing the match against England with a shoulder injury. (Reuters)

**CORRECTIONS:** England v Pakistan (Mar 1). Pakistan bowling: Wasim Akram 3-0-7-1. Aqib Javed 3-1-7-0, not as published.

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
K C Wessels c and b Ratanunga 40  
A P Kuiper b Anura Kumari 18  
P N Kirsten c Hathurusinghe b Kalpage 47  
M W Richardson c Jayasuriya b Ratanunga 4  
J N Rhodes c Jayasuriya 25  
W J Craig c Ratanunga b Anura Kumari 28  
R P Smith b Anura Kumari 9  
S M Mollins not out 0  
D J Richardson run out 0  
O J Henry c Kalpage b Wessels 11  
A A Donald run out 3  
Extras (b 5, w 4, nb 1) 14  
Total (50 overs) 198  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-114, 3-114, 4-125, 5-145, 6-153, 7-165, 8-165, 9-165

**BOWLING:** Ratanunga 9-2-19-5; Wessels 7-0-32-2; Anura Kumari 10-1-41-3; Kalpage 10-0-25-1; Gurusinha 5-0-30-2; Ratanunga 5-0-30-2.

**SRI LANKA**  
U C Hathurusinghe c Wessels b Donald 5  
R S Mahanama c Richardson b Mollins 6  
A P Gurusinha b Donald 9  
P N Kirsten c Ratanunga b Henry 17  
H P Thirumalinga c Ratanunga b Henry 17  
A Ratanunga not out 6  
S J Jayasuriya c Richardson b Kirsten 3  
R S Kalpage run out 25  
C P H Ramesay not out 25  
Extras (b 1, b 7, w 13, nb 4) 25  
Total (7 wickets, 48.5 overs) 198  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-12, 3-25, 4-27, 5-154, 6-165, 7-165, 8-165, 9-165

**Man of the match:** Ratanunga  
**Man of the match:** A Ratanunga  
**Man of the match:** Ratanunga

**Man of the match:** Ratanunga  
**Man of the match:** Ratanunga  
**Man of the match:** Ratanunga

**Man of the match:** Ratanunga  
**Man of the match:** Ratanunga  
**Man of the match:** Ratanunga

|              | P | W | L | NR | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|----|-----|
| New Zealand  | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1  | 5   |
| England      | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1  | 5   |
| Sri Lanka    | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 2   |
| West Indies  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 2   |
| Pakistan     | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 2   |
| South Africa | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1   |
| Australia    | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1   |
| India        | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1   |
| Zimbabwe     | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1   |

## Irritating omissions spoil view of cup

Australian television rates cricket as an important selling point. You have only to gaze at an evening's ads for the proof. Rod Marsh appears for a brewery, Dennis Lillee has become a carpet salesman, and Max Walker is into dairy products. Allan Border is entrusted only with cricket hats, but doubtless he will try something less obvious when he hangs up his boots.

The high spot comes every half-hour or so, when the drums roll and on comes the World Cup theme song, masquerading as a commercial for the sponsor, Benson and Hedges.

It is an appallingly repetitive yet catchy tune called *Who'll rule the world?*, and it leaves no one in any doubt that this cricket competition is a global event of monumental importance.

Sadly, it is not being covered as such. Indeed, there are grounds for thinking that those fortunate enough to have a satellite dish back home in Britain may be receiving a better service than the Australians whose interest does not begin and end with their own team.

This is not intended to be yet another attack on the stylised match coverage of Kerry Packer's Channel 9. I may be in the minority, among Englishmen, but I happen to think it works.

True, some of the more excitable commentary may be excruciating. There are only a certain number of times any serious armchair viewer would choose to hear Bill Lawry yell, "It's all happening here", or assure us that there "a big crowd in", when the cameras tell otherwise.

Tony Greig can get a shade carried away, too, especially when he mistakenly believes a catch has been taken. But Greig, like it or not, is faithful to a patented delivery and, if you accept his claim to be "rock solid English", then his bawling of Lawry and Ian Chappell is an amusing sideshow.

Chappell is sound and forthright of opinion and professionally unflinching. The best, classical commentary is always when he and Richie Benaud are in tandem, although with a team of seven to rotate, this happens less than it should. No, the shortcom-

ings of the World Cup on television do not arise when Channel 9 is covering a game, but when it is not. Unless the entire, expansive roadshow is on site, the match, it seems, does not exist.

Channel 9 is showing 15 of the 36 qualifying matches live and in their entirety. This is an impressive operation, so long as one can stomach adverts between each over.

When another game is taking place on the day of a live telecast, scores are given occasionally, but highlights are seldom shown.

Only two of the 13 games staged in New Zealand are being screened in Australia; the rest are virtually ignored.

Last week's New Zealand-based games, other than the visit of Australia, received no coverage whatever. This week's games are given a highlights programme, though hardly at a social hour.

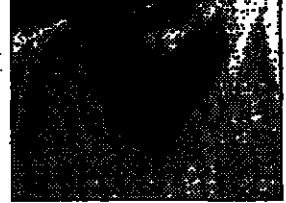
The South Africans' defeat by Sri Lanka yesterday, which must have been of interest to those who saw their victory over Australia, was shown at 1.25am.

Today's game at Napier fares even worse: the highlights are at 3.55am tomorrow - the insomniacs' show.

How much better it would have been, for every one concerned with and interested in the World Cup, if a nightly package could have been put together, rounding up all the day's action, news and interviews.

The makers of it would have been better off, too, if they had been, for every one concerned with and interested in the World Cup, if a nightly package could have been put together, rounding up all the day's action, news and interviews.

Commentary on any sporting encounter when those describing it are not at the venue is about as ridiculous as expecting a theatre or music critic to assess a play or concert performance from a video of the production. Shaw wrote: "Is the theatre of sport any different?"



Chappell: forthright

## MOTOR RACING

### Kyalami fails the passing test

FROM NORMAN HOWELL  
IN JOHANNESBURG

ON SUNDAY, Nigel Mansell won the inaugural race of the 1992 Formula One season at the Kyalami circuit here. It was a brilliant win, both for the driver and his team, Williams-Renault, in a marvellous setting and the event was of great significance, from a sporting and political perspective. But it was also the most boring race I have seen.

Not because Mansell sped away so impressively, leaving an ever-widening gap behind him, but because nobody attempted overtaking the car in front. Twenty-five laps into the race, there had been no movement in the first 12 places. The press room was fast becoming a dormitory and the only hope for change lay in drivers making mistakes.

It occurred to me that this circuit, rebuilt at a reputed cost of £4 million, is the latest in a series of tracks where overtaking is difficult. There is the Hungaroring, there is Magny Cours, and

now Kyalami. If you add Monaco and Adelaide, both street circuits, there are at least five grands prix which could easily end up as motorcades instead of motor races.

Max Mosley, the president of Fisa, the sport's governing body, conceded that Sunday's race was not a riveting affair. "But had Senna made a great start, for example, we would have had the very exciting prospect of Mansell doing everything to overtake the Brazilian."

There is truth in that: the slow build-up, the ability to choose the right spot, the courage and the intuition to do it at the right moment. The harder the circuit, Mosley claims, the more exciting. Fisa's president is a Queen's Counsel and he makes a convincing argument for the intellectual approach to racing.

But the public, perhaps, is less concerned. The overtaking manoeuvre that Mansell pulled on Senna, sparks flying, in last year's Spanish grand prix, was compulsive viewing. That, too, is a new circuit, but there is a long straight: homage to the Circuito de Catalunya. And to Silverstone, and to Monza, Imola and Suzuka, Spa and Hockenheim. This is where the exciting races take place.

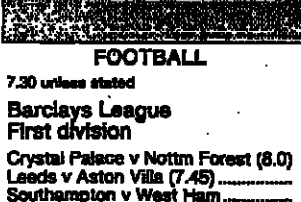
And it matters not if the best man in the best car streaks ahead. There is still plenty of action behind, as the young bloods take on every body else. But this did not happen in South Africa. Michael Schumacher, who

was fifth, and Jean Alesi, fourth, should have had fascinating duels, but they drove as quiet as mice.

Fisa has guidelines about width and length and such like. And draft plans have to be submitted. But it seems that the Hungaroring was built before anybody realised that increased braking efficiency and higher speeds would lead to today's problem. Magny Cours did not, it seems, submit much of anything, while Kyalami did, and the lack of a long straight was noted, but the race organisers had sold off much of the land in order to finance the new circuit.

There was not much that could be done to change matters. So now we are getting nearer to the root of the problem. It is not Fisa, which in its quest for improving safety has stipulated that circuits must be slower. It is more a question of organisers trying to make a gallon fit into a pint glass. This is why we get all this twisting and turning, where overtaking is difficult but the financial ends meet. And racing is the loser.

Mosley: tough circuits



Mosley: tough circuits

## TENNIS

### Cole produces fine display in first round

SEAN Cole produced the best of the home performances in the first round of the LTA satellite masters at Eastbourne yesterday. Cole gained a 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 victory over the South African, Marius Barnard, who is ranked 240 places above him in the world, at 340.

**RESULTS:** First round: M Petchey (Essex) b G Beecher (Kent), 6-4, 6-5, 6-3; A Debon (O) b K Lyle (SA), 7-5, 6-2; N Broad (Leeds) b L Matthews (Preston), 7-5, 6-3; R Kewley (BA) b J Doherty (Surrey), 6-4, 7-5; S Cole (Barnet) b M Barnard (SA), 7-5, 3-6, 6-1; C Broad (O) b D Brown (GA), 6-2, 6-0, not C Falk (Surrey) b D Galt (Surrey), 6-0, 6-4.

## FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

**Barclays League First division**  
Crystal Palace v North Forest (8.0)  
Leeds v Aston Villa (7.45)  
Southampton v West Ham

**Second division**  
Charlton v Grimsby (7.45)

**Third division**  
Birmingham v Swans (8.0)  
Brentford v Chester (7.45)  
Bury v Torquay  
Darlington v Stockport  
Exeter v Preston (7.45)  
Hull v Bradford  
Peterborough v Huddersfield  
Shrewsbury v Fulham  
West Brom v Leyton Orient  
Wigan v Bournemouth

**Fourth division**  
Barnet v Aldershot (7.45)  
Blackpool v Hereford  
Cardiff v Walsley  
Carlisle v York  
Crewe v Rochdale

**Doncaster v Chesterfield**  
Gillingham v Burnley (7.45)  
Mansfield v Rotherham  
Northampton v Maidstone  
Scunthorpe v Hellen  
Worcester v Lincoln

**Tennants Scottish Cup Fifth round**  
St Johnstone v Rangers

**B and Q Scottish League First division**  
Postponed: Morton v Ayr

**Second division**  
Aberdeen v St Johnstone  
Clyde v Berwick

**UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL:** England v Netherlands (at Leicester City)  
**DIADORA LEAGUE:** Premier division: St Albans v Bromley; Staines v Kingston  
NPS LEAGUE LEAGUE: Premier division: Marston v Merthyr; Premier division: Sutton v Shrewsbury; Chelvey v Southport. First division: Newbury v Romford

**RUSSIAN LEAGUE:** Premier division: Moscow v Leningrad; Premier division: Moscow v Leningrad; Premier division: Moscow v Leningrad

**PONTING CENTRAL LEAGUE:** Second division: Derry v Middeledough (7.0); Notts County v Wolverhampton; Oxford v Notts (7.0)

**NEWCASTLE OVERSEAS COMBINATION:** Cheltenham v Watford (2.0)

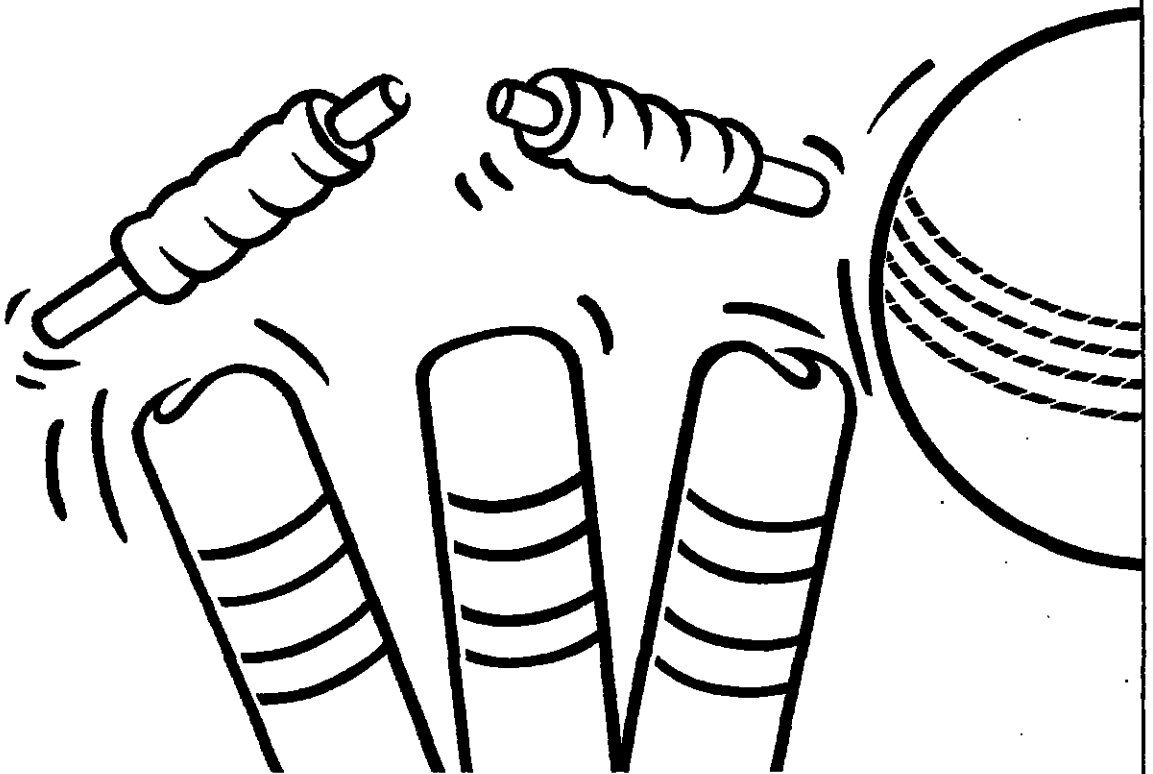
**IRISH LEAGUE CUP:** Second round: Glenavon v Coleraine

**BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES:** Tynemouth v Fleetwood; Tynemouth v Fleetwood; Tynemouth v Fleetwood

**CLIFTON STOCKBROKERS LEAGUE:** Exeter City v Bristol Rovers

**OTHER SPORT**  
**BOXING:** Bantamweight: Billy Hardy (Scotland) v Chris Gledhill (Ireland) (McBarnes C, Houghton-Jones-Spring)  
**BROOKER:** Strachan v Champion (Champion v Strachan, Strachan v Champion)  
**SQUASH RACKETS:** SPA Women's Super League  
**TENNIS:** LTA Men's Indoor 'satellite' Masters (Eastbourne)

# IT'S WAR!



## ENGLAND Vs AUSTRALIA

Thursday 5th March 4.30am - 12.30pm LIVE  
Re-run 2.30pm - 9.00pm

## ENGLAND Vs SOUTH AFRICA

Thursday 12th March 4.30am - 12.30pm LIVE  
Re-run 3.00pm - 10.00pm

## ENGLAND Vs NEW ZEALAND

Saturday 14th March 9.45pm - 5.45am LIVE  
Re-run Sunday 15th 9.30am - 6.00pm

## LIVE & EXCLUSIVE

### INSTALLATION WITHIN 48 HOURS\*

\*Available between February 21st and March 25th, 1992 from Colorvision, Comet, Currys, DEK, Dixons Focus, Granada, Martin Dawes, Multibroadcast, Powerstore, Radio Rentals, Rumbelows, Visionhire.

Ask your local independent dealer or your local cable operator for availability.









